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Michael Stark Esq  
 Private Secretary to  
 the Secretary of the Cabinet  
 Cabinet Office  
 70 Whitehall  
 LONDON  
 SW1

*Prime Minister 2*

*DLW*

*6/2*

5 February 1986

*Dear Michael*

### SECOND REPORT ON LESSONS OF THE MINERS' STRIKE

The Paymaster General has now had the opportunity of considering the question of multi-issue ballots to which this report referred and on which both the Prime Minister (David Norgrove's minute of 20 December) and the Attorney General (Anthony Inglese's letter of 17 January) commented.

Changes to the strike ballot provisions in the Trade Union Act 1984 can only be effected by primary legislation and there is no appropriate Bill this Session which could provide a vehicle for pre-emptive action. The Paymaster General is however now actively considering the possibilities for further legislation in this field for the next legislative opportunity. He will carefully consider the framing of additional requirements for strike ballots.

I am copying this letter to David Norgrove (No 10), the Private Secretaries to the Lord President, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Home Secretary, the Secretaries of State for Energy, Defence, Scotland, Wales and Transport and the Attorney General.

*Yours sincerely*

*Susan Chappell*

SUSAN CHAPPELL



NAT. IND : Coal : PE 19







10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary .

7 February 1986

Dear Susan,

**SECOND REPORT ON LESSONS OF THE  
MINERS' STRIKE**

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to Michael Stark of 5 February and has noted that the Paymaster General is considering the possibilities for further legislation on trades union ballots.

I am copying this letter to Joan MacNaughton (Lord President's Office), Rachel Lomax (HM Treasury), Stephen Boys Smith (Home Office), Geoff Dart (Department of Energy), Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence), Robert Gordon (Scottish Office), Colin Williams (Welsh Office), Richard Allan (Department of Transport), Michael Saunders (Attorney General's office) and Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,  
David Norgrove

DAVID NORNGROVE

Miss Susan Chappell,  
Department of Employment.

**SECRET AND PERSONAL**



SECRET AND PERSONAL

01-405764X XX.X 936:6782

Communications on this subject should  
be addressed to  
The Legal Secretary  
Attorney General's Chambers

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS

LAW OFFICERS' DEPARTMENT

ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE

LONDON, W.C.2

The Private Secretary to the  
Secretary of the Cabinet  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London SW1

20  
17 January, 1986

NBP 7.

Dear Private Secretary,

SECOND REPORT ON LESSONS OF THE MINERS' STRIKE

The Attorney General has considered the second report on lessons of the miners' strike with Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 25 November to the Prime Minister. He has commented that the multi-issue ballot should be prevented if possible.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister, the Lord President, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Home Secretary, the Secretaries of State for Energy, Defence, Scotland and Wales, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and the Secretaries of State for Transport and Employment.

Yours sincerely

*Anthony Inglese*

A M C INGLESE

SECRET AND PERSONAL



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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary.*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

SECOND REPORT ON LESSONS OF THE MINERS' STRIKE

The Prime Minister was grateful for your minute of 25 November, covering the second report on lessons of the miners' strike. She has noted that other colleagues are content with its conclusions.

The Prime Minister has two comments.

First, the report refers to the problems which might be caused by multi-issue ballots and cites the NACODS ballot of September 1984. The Prime Minister believes there is a risk that a multi-issue ballot might be used again with the intention deliberately to confuse, and has asked whether action could be taken in advance to stop this.

Secondly, the report says the Widdicombe Inquiry is expected to report in late spring next year on matters relevant to local authorities' scope to provide financial assistance to strikers and their families. The Prime Minister has asked whether the Government should anyway be looking towards legislation on this early in the 1986/87 session.

The Prime Minister is otherwise content.

I am copying this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Lord President, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Home Secretary, Secretaries of



State for Energy, Defence, Scotland and Wales, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Secretaries of State for Transport and Employment, and the Attorney General.

*DNS*

DAVID NORRGROVE

20 December 1985