



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 May 1985

Dear Councillor Espley

I am writing to thank you for letting me have a copy of Clwyd County Council's action response to the job losses which will arise from the proposed closure of Courtaulds viscose staple and acetate plants at Greenfield and at Wrexham. I am glad we had the opportunity to discuss this at Hawarden on 26 April when I heard at first hand representations from you and your Chief Executive, as well as from the two district authorities in the County directly affected.

At the end of that meeting I said that I would be writing to the Chairman of Courtaulds letting him know of the representations that were made to me, and I have since done so.

The Secretary of State for Wales will be getting in touch with you very soon on how the Welsh Office and the County Council might take forward the discussions on the matters raised in your action plan as speedily and constructively as possible.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Storer

Councillor J Espley

Bel



Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
01-233 8545 (Llinell Union)

ODDI WRTH YSGRIFENNYDD
PREIFAT YSGRIFENNYDD
GWLADOL CYMRU

WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switchboard)
01-233 8545 (Direct Line)

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR WALES

*CR - type of
PM by please.*

8 May 1985

Year Mark,

COURTAULDS

Thank you for your letter of 30 April about which we have spoken.

- ... I attach a draft letter for the Prime Minister to send to Councillor Espley, Chairman of Clwyd County Council, and a draft reply for you to send to Mr John Packer, Chief Executive of Delyn Borough Council. I also attach for your information copies of draft letters which will go from my Secretary of State and me to Councillor Espley and Mr Packer respectively as soon as the Prime Minister and you have written. Perhaps you could let me know when this has been done.

In meeting folder
I also attach a brief note on Wrexham for the Prime Minister's meeting with Dr Marek on 9 May (which Wyn Roberts will be attending).

✓ Just for the record a draft reply and background note for Dr Marek's PQ (for answer on 14 May) will be forwarded separately via our Parliamentary Branch.

Mr Edwards is of course very much concerned about the implications of the Courtaulds closures for North East Wales and he will be seeking ways of using existing mechanisms and resources as flexibly as possible. It should be said, however, that other parts of the Principality face the same (and in some cases even greater) difficulties as Clwyd; and there is an obvious need for even handed treatment.

*Yours sincerely
Colin*

R C WILLIAMS

Mark Addison Esq
Private Secretary to
The Prime Minister

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DRAFT LETTER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO

COUNCILLOR J ESPLBY
CHAIRMAN
CLWYD COUNTY COUNCIL
SHIRE HALL
MULD
CLWYD

sl3afv

letting me have a copy of

I am writing to thank you for ~~and to acknowledge~~ Clwyd County Council's action response to the job losses which will arise from the proposed closure of Courtaulds viscose staple and acetate plants at Greenfield and at Wrexham.

I am glad we had

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will be getting a track with you very soon

should take forward the discussions

~~You will be hearing very soon from the Secretary of State for Wales about how ^{and the} he proposes that discussions between the Welsh Office and the County Council should be taken forward on the ^{points} matters raised in your action plan as speedily and constructively as possible.~~

DRAFT LETTER FOR MR MARK ADDISON TO SEND TO

MR JOHN PACKER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
DELYN BOROUGH COUNCIL
FLINT
GLWYD

sl3afw

~~The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 26 April enclosing Delyn Borough Council's proposals for a development strategy to tackle the problems arising from the proposed closure by Courtaulds of their viscose staple plant at Greenfield. ^{Your proposals are} ~~The~~ ^{a useful} ~~presentation~~ ^{supplement to the} ~~made to her by Councillor Selwyn Roberts~~ ^{made on 26 April at Hawarden}~~
The Prime Minister was grateful to you for sending her a copy of your Council's proposals which supplemented the presentation made to her by Councillor Selwyn Roberts and yourself at Hawarden on 26 April. The Prime Minister indicated at the end of that meeting that she would be writing to the Chairman of Courtaulds to let him know of the representations that had been made to her ^{and she has since done so.}

I understand that copies of your Council's proposals have also been sent to the Secretary of State for Wales whose department is of course largely responsible for the programmes covered in the report; and indeed ^{but} they have already been the subject of some preliminary discussion with the Welsh Office. I know that you will shortly hear from Mr Edwards' office ^{will be jolly a touch but you very soon} about the way in which these discussions can best be taken forward quickly and constructively.

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DRAFT LETTER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO

COUNCILLOR J ESPLBY
CHAIRMAN
CLWYD COUNTY COUNCIL
SHIRE HALL
MULD
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TEL: 2121 (STD 0352)

CADEIRYDD CYNGOR SIR CLWYD, NEUADD Y SIR, YR WYDDGRUG CH7 6NB

R15 CHAIRMAN OF THE CLWYD COUNTY COUNCIL, SHIRE HALL, MOLD CH7 6NB

30th April, 1985

(received 15/5)

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you very much for seeing us on Friday morning. We very much appreciated the opportunity of putting to you our great concern about the situation at Courtaulds, both at Wrexham and on Deeside. We very much hope that you will be able to bring home to Sir Christopher Hogg the responsibilities falling upon the management and, if possible, to save both or one of the factories here in the County of Clwyd. We really do feel that there is a special need here for such consideration, because of the very high level of unemployment that already exists and the additional costs and burden that the further unemployment of at least 1100 will cause.

I am sure you will do whatever is possible in this, and if the decision cannot be altered then we would certainly seek your support for the provision of additional resources both to respond to whatever co-operation can be obtained from Courtaulds themselves and also to accelerate the existing programme that we have for the regeneration of industry in the County.

Thank you once again for your thoughtful consideration of the problems that we have, and for giving us so much of your valuable time.

Yours sincerely,

J. L. Esley

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON.

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