



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

Mr. Stark

Mr. Austin Mitchell, M.P., has put down a large number of Questions on Westland for answer by the Prime Minister. Exceptionally, I think it would be helpful if the Cabinet Office could coordinate the answers to these sub-contracting specific Questions to DTI and MOD as appropriate in drafting answers for those dealing with constitutional issues. It is self-evident from each Question, I think, to which Department it should be directed for a draft. But, given the political sensitivity which the issue has assumed, it is important that the reply should be carefully co-ordinated. You may like to discuss this with our Parliamentary Clerk.

I am sending copies of this minute and enclosures to John Mogg (Department of Trade and Industry) and Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

C.D. POWELL

8 January, 1986.

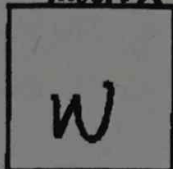
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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

13 Jan

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Name.....Austin Mitchell.....

Constituency (.....Great Grimsby.....):

To ask.....The Prime Minister.....

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

Further to her letter dated 1 January 1986 to Sir John Cuckney concerning the future of Westland helicopters, whether any of the Governments and companies belonging to the Consortium have collaborated with the United States Government and/or United States firms on defence projects in the aircraft field, and whether she will publish particulars in the Official Report.

Signed.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

For answer on: ..... 13 Jan .....  
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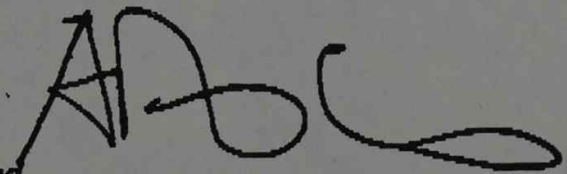
Name..... Austin Mitchell.....

Constituency (..... Great Grimsby.....):

To ask..... The Prime Minister.....

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

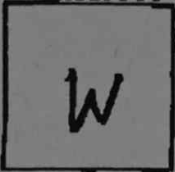
~~Further to her letter dated 1 January to Sir John Cuckney concerning the future of Westland helicopters, whether she will publish in the Official Report a list of the existing and future European collaborative projects together with the stage which each has reached, the role and actual or prospective workload assigned to Westland, the number of helicopters ordered by each of the countries concerned or for which a requirement has been indicated; and what is the Government's estimate of the resultant minimum and maximum annual work-load for Westland in terms of (i) design and development and (ii) production.~~

Signed.....  .....

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

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Name..... Austin Mitchell .....

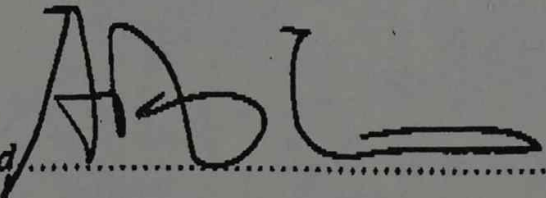
Constituency (..... Great Grimsby .....):

The Prime Minister

To ask.....

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

Further to her letter dated 1 January 1986 to Sir John Cuckney concerning the future of Westland helicopters, whether she will list in the Official Report the considerations which will be taken into account in deciding which helicopter comes from the most cost effective source: what weight will be given to the reduction in public revenue and the increase in public expenditure which would result from a loss of jobs in the UK: and whether contracts for the supply of military helicopters will be open to tender on a specification which will admit competition from United States as well as European firms?

Signed  .....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

13 January 1986

For answer on:.....  
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Austin Mitchell

Name.....

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Constituency (.....Great Grimsby.....):

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To ask.....  
The Prime Minister

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(TITLE OF MINISTER)

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Whether the Government intends to make it a condition for placing an order for helicopters with a European Consortium that no shares in any of the companies concerned will be bought by an American Company.

Signed.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

13 January 1986

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Austin Mitchell

Name.....

Constituency (Great Grimsby.....):

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To ask.....The Prime Minister.....

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

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Whether the Governments which made the threats against Westland communicated these threats to Her Majesty's Government, whether this was done before the threats were made public, what was the reaction of HMG to these threats; and if she will publish the terms of any communication she has sent to the Governments concerned expressing the Government's views on the matter.

Signed.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

For answer on:..... 13 January 1986  
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Name..... Austin Mitchell

Constituency (..... Great Grimsby.....):

To ask..... The Prime Minister

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

What is the policy of HMG towards the future survival of Westland  
helicopters.

Signed.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

13 January 1986

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Name..... Austin Mitchell.....

Constituency (..... Great Grimsby.....):

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To ask..... The Prime Minister.....

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

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What is the policy of HMG towards dependence on supplies of arms and war material from the United States.

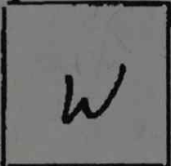
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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

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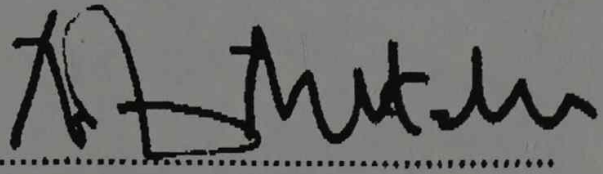
Name.....Austin Mitchell.....

Constituency (.....Great Grimsby.....):

To ask.....The Prime Minister.....

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

Whether she will publish in the Official Report particulars of the initiatives taken by the Government over the past 12 months to save Westland Helicopters together with the representations made to foreign Governments and foreign firms, showing the relevant dates.

Signed.....

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TABLE OFFICE

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08/01/86

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

13 January 1986

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Name..... Austin Mitchell .....

Constituency (...Great..Grimsby.....):

To ask..... The Prime Minister .....

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

Whether Her Majesty's Government is satisfied that the Governments and companies which have threatened to discriminate against Westland will not use their position in the Consortium to transfer output and employment from the UK to the continent in the event that the European consortium offer to Westlands is accepted; and what safeguards have been agreed to seek to ensure that this will not happen.

Signed.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

13 January 1986

For answer on:.....  
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Name..... Austin Mitchell .....

Constituency (.....Great..Grimsby.....):

To ask..... The Prime Minister .....

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

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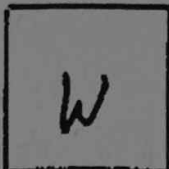
What is the Government's policy regarding discrimination against US suppliers of defence materials.

Signed.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

For answer on: ..... 13 Jan .....  
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Name..... Austin Mitchell.....

Constituency (..... Great Grimsby.....):

To ask..... The Prime Minister.....

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

Whether the disclosures made by the Secretary of State for Defence concerning Cabinet and other discussions concerning the future of the British helicopter industry are to be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions under Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act.

Signed..... *M. F. ...*.....

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08/01/86

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

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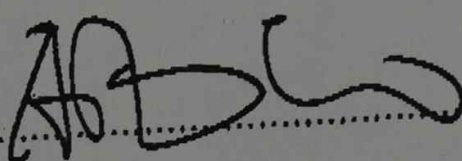
Name..... Austin Mitchell

Constituency (..... Great Grimsby .....):  
The Prime Minister

To ask.....

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

Further to her letter dated 1 January 1986 to Sir John Cuckney concerning the future of Westland Helicopters, whether she will publish in the Official Report particulars of the contributions which would be expected from Her Majesty's Government in the case of each of the existing and prospective future European collaborative projects to which she refers, whether and to what extent Letters of Intent would be signed within the lifetime of this Government, and what would be the extent of the commitment in terms of money and numbers of helicopters.

Signed..... 

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08/01/86

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

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Name..... Austin Mitchell.....

Constituency (..... Great Grimsby.....):

To ask..... ~~The Prime Minister~~ *Ernie* *S* *P.N.*.....

(TITLE OF MINISTER)

What representations have been made by the Italian Government concerning the Sikorsky-Fiat proposals; what part would Fiat play in these proposals; and have the threats to Westland been extended to Fiat by the Governments and Companies referred to in ~~her~~ letter to Sir John Cuckney dated 1 January 1986.

~~The Prime Minister~~

Signed..... *[Signature]*.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

13 January 1986

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Name..... Austin Mitchell .....

Constituency (..... Great Grimsby .....) :

To ask..... The Prime Minister .....

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

Whether her letter dated 1 January 1986 to Sir John Cuckney concerning the future of Westland was written in the knowledge that the Secretary of State for Defence would be writing to Lloyds Bank International on the same matter.

Signed.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

13 January 1986

For answer on:.....  
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Name..... Austin Mitchell

Constituency (..... Great Grimsby.....):

To ask..... The Prime Minister

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

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Whether the Government was aware before 29 November that an agreement was to be signed in London on that date between Lloyds International Bank and two companies owned by foreign governments to form a consortium to seek a major shareholding in Westlands.

Signed.....



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

For answer on:..... 13 January 1986  
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Name..... Austin Mitchell

Constituency (..... Great Grimsby.....):

To ask..... The Prime Minister

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

Further to her letter dated 1 January to Sir John Cuckney concerning the future of Westland helicopters, whether, in the event of Westland agreeing to collaborate with the Consortium on joint projects, the Company will be given access to finance on the same scale and on no less favourable terms than the other participants; and whether the Government will make it its policy to protect Westland from unfair competition from foreign state-controlled and state-supported companies.

Signed.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

13 January 1986

For answer on:.....  
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Name..... Austin Mitchell

Constituency (..... Great Grimsby.....):

To ask..... The Prime Minister

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(TITLE OF MINISTER)

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Which European Governments and companies have indicated that a number of projects in which Westland are expecting to participate with other European companies may be lost to Westland if the United Technologies/Fiat proposals are accepted; to whom have the indications been given and in what form; and if the Government will make it its policy to institute proceedings before the European Court of Justice in respect of any action by any of the Governments or companies concerned which would discriminate against Westland on the grounds that it had accepted help from a non-European firm.

Signed.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

For answer on:..... 13 January 1986  
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Name..... Austin Mitchell.....

Constituency (..... Great Grimsby.....):

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To ask..... The Prime Minister.....

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

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Whether the letter sent by the Secretary of State for Defence to Lloyds Bank International regarding investment in Westlands represents Government policy.

Signed.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

For answer on:..... 13 January 1986 .....  
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Name..... Austin Mitchell .....

Constituency (..... Great Grimsby .....) :

To ask..... The Prime Minister .....

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

Further to her letter dated 1 January 1986 to Sir John Cuckney concerning the future of Westland helicopters, whether she will make it her policy that no orders will be placed for production models unless and until it can be shown that the military requirement can be met at an acceptable cost and that the European consortium is also the most cost-effective source of supply, in the event that Westland accept the European consortium proposal.

Signed.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

For answer on:..... 13 January 1986  
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Name..... Austin Mitchell.....

Constituency (.....Great..Grimsby.....):

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To ask.....The..Prime..Minister.....

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(TITLE OF MINISTER)

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What is the policy of HMG towards maintenance of a complete helictoper manufacturing facility in this country which would not be dependent on supplies from the continent in time of war; and to what extent this will be realised in the case of the proposals put forward by the European consortium and by Sikorski-Fiat respectively.

Signed.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

13 January 1986

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Name..... Austin Mitchell

Constituency (...Great Grimsby.....):

To ask..... The Prime Minister

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

Whether, if the Westland Shareholders reject the European consortium proposals for investment in the company, she will make it her policy to dismiss the Secretary of State for Defence.

Signed.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

For answer on:..... 13 January 1986  
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Name..... Austin Mitchell

Constituency (..... Great Grimsby.....):

To ask..... The Prime Minister

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

When did the Government first learn that Westlands were in financial difficulties; and when did they first intervene in the process of finding a solution to the difficulties?

Signed.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

13 January 1986

For answer on:.....  
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Name..... Austin Mitchell

Constituency (.....Great Grimsby.....):

To ask..... The Prime Minister

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(TITLE OF MINISTER)

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Whether she will publish in the Official Report details of the United States trade deficit in manufactures with France, Italy and West Germany for the most recent period of 12 months for which figures are available: how this compares with the United States surplus with each of the countries on defence equipment.

Signed.....



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

For answer on:..... 13 January 1986  
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Name..... Austin Mitchell

Constituency (.....Great Grimsby.....):

To ask..... The Pirme Minister

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(TITLE OF MINISTER)

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What is the policy towards the intervention of the European Commission in the Westalnd case; under what authority the Commission acted when threatening Westland with loss of contracts in the event of their establishing a link with Sikorski and Fiat; and it she will make a statement.

Signed.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

For answer on:..... 13 January 1986  
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answer

Name..... Austin Mitchell

Constituency (.....Great Grimsby.....):

To ask..... The Prime Minister

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

Whether she will clarify the terms of the Memorandum sent by the Head of the Civil Service to Departments after the Ponting Case on the relationship between civil servants and Ministers to cover the kind of briefing of the press which has taken and is taking place in the Westland affair.

Signed.....

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

For answer on:..... 13 January 1986  
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Name..... Austin Mitchell

Constituency (... Great Grimsby .....):

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To ask..... The Prime Minister

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

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If she will amend the Armstrong memorandum of guidance on conduct for civil servants to cover the situation where there is a conflict of opinion between the head of the Civil Servants' department and the Prime Minister; and if she will make a statement.

Signed.....