



# THE TREASURY SOLICITOR

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T Flesher Esq  
Private Secretary  
Prime Minister's Office  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

Please quote L86/1444/RADJ

Your reference

Date 15th April 1986

Dear Mr Flesher

MR RICHARD HOLT'S LIBEL ACTION

You may recall that we spoke, briefly, about this matter on 25th March. Following our conversation, I discussed the matter with John Coleman, Legal Adviser to the DES.

I am returning the papers enclosed with Mr Wicks' letter of 17th March to John Bailey together with copies of letters to this office from John Coleman dated 27th March and 2nd April, a copy of Duncan Watson's letter of 4th April and John Coleman's reply of 11th April.

Mr Coleman's letter of 11th April speaks for itself and I agree with him that I need to take instructions from the Prime Minister's Office on the status of Supplementary Questions.

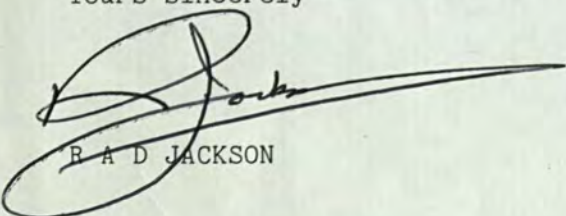
If you and your colleagues wish to maintain the position that the Prime Minister has no prior knowledge of Supplementary Questions, then this means that we cannot agree to the inclusion of "paragraph (g)" in Mr Holt's Reply. However, this will not prevent him from including it if he is still advised that it is necessary and appropriate. Furthermore, if the matter ever came to a trial, the truth will be revealed; namely, that the Prime Minister does, indeed, have prior knowledge of Supplementary Questions.

These considerations would also apply to the compromise positions proposed by Mr Coleman.

If you are content to acknowledge that the Prime Minister is forewarned of Supplementary Questions then I should be grateful if you would confirm whether or not you are content (a) with the proposed wording for "paragraph (g)" given towards the end of page 1 of Duncan Watson's letter of 4th April; and (b) whether or not you are content to provide Mr Holt's solicitors with a copy of the draft Answer and the Background Notes.

I look forward to hearing from you.\*

Yours sincerely

  
R A D JACKSON

\* Please return the papers when replying.

Case: Teachers Pay

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