

C O N F I D E N T I A L

MISC 101 *with folder*



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

L43/31/01

16 November 1984

My dear Margaret:

MINERS' CASES

Following the discussion in Cabinet ^{*attached*} yesterday, I understand that you and other members of MISC 101 would find it helpful to have a note about the progress being made in the Crown Court of cases arising out of the miners' dispute.

According to the figures supplied by my officials, 43 cases have been received by the Crown Court following committal by the magistrates' courts; 14 cases have already been disposed of and 29 remain outstanding. I should emphasise that these figures refer to cases rather than defendants and include "multi-handed" cases involving several defendants.

Cases are being listed in the Crown Court as quickly as possible, compatibly with the readiness of the parties, and there are no unusual delays at present in bringing the cases on for trial. In addition to the cases which have already reached the Crown Court and which will be dealt with as soon as possible, it is understood that a number of large multi-handed cases which will come to the Crown Court if committed are still at the pre-committal stage in the magistrates' courts. In particular, I understand that a number of such cases will, if committed by the magistrates' courts, come to the Crown Court at Sheffield in the near future.

I am copying this letter to other members of MISC 101 and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yrs:

O. H.

The Right Honourable
Margaret Thatcher, MP,
10, Downing Street,
Westminster, SW1.