

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER ON THURSDAY 21 MARCH 1985

Mr Clive Soley (Hammersmith): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he will publish in the Official Report information on the mining dispute showing the number of arrests in each police area from 13th March 1984 to 5th March 1985.

DRAFT REPLY

The number of arrests connected with the miners' strike in police force areas in England & Wales was as follows:

<u>Police force area</u>	<u>Number of arrests</u>
Cleveland	58
Cumbria	25
Derbyshire	1,192
Durham	487
Dyfed-Powys	16
Essex	212
Greater Manchester	274
Gwent	236
Hampshire	11
Humberside	121
Kent	311
Lancashire	26
Leicestershire	54
Merseyside	195
Metropolitan	255
Northumbria	637
North Wales	31
North Yorkshire	163
Nottinghamshire	2,417

Police force area

Number of arrests

South Wales	509
South Yorkshire	1,533
Staffordshire	417
Sussex	5
Thames Valley	3
Warwickshire	197
West Yorkshire	423

Total 9,808

3. The Numbers of Arrests

Between the 14 March and 29 May there were a total of 2,689 arrests made in England and Wales in connection with the current dispute. The following tables give information on the numbers arrested by force area, and by the offences charged:-

<u>Police Force Area</u>	<u>Number of arrests made</u>
Cleveland	5
Derbyshire	235
Durham	138
Essex	207
Greater Manchester	22
Hampshire	7
Humberside	9
Kent	48
Lancashire	25
Leicestershire	29
Merseyside	41
Northumbria	40
North Wales	21
Nottinghamshire	1226
South Wales	60
South Yorkshire	292
Staffordshire	195
Warwickshire	83
West Yorkshire	6
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	2689
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Mr [REDACTED]

LORD ONSLOW'S QUESTION ON CRITERIA FOR PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE TREASON ACTS

I have seen a copy of your letter of 20 November to Stephen Wooler asking for contributions for briefing for the above Question, and attach supplementary questions about the coal dispute. I am sorry to have missed your deadline, but the weekly statistical report from the National Reporting Centre from which most of our material comes is produced each Thursday. The most recent figures available on the day on which the Question is to be answered will be available on 6 December, and perhaps you could let me know whether I should let you have these or pass them direct to Lord Elton's Office?

F4 Division

November 1984

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COAL DISPUTE

1. How many arrests have been made for offences committed in connection with the dispute?

Between 13 March and 27 November a total of 8460 arrests were made. Among police force areas these were as follows:

<u>FORCE</u>	<u>CUMULATIVE TOTAL</u>
Cleveland	58
Cumbria	25
Derbyshire	1143
Durham	426
Dyfed-Powys	13
Essex	212
Greater Manchester	235
Gwent	199
Hampshire	11
Humberside	94
Kent	242
Lancashire	26
Leicestershire	54
Merseyside	190
Metropolitan	126
Northumbria	513
North Wales	31
North Yorkshire	141
Nottinghamshire	2347
South Wales	402
South Yorkshire	1179
Staffordshire	385
Thames Valley	3
Warwickshire	195
West Yorkshire	210
<u>Total</u>	<u>8,460</u>

2. What were the occupations of those arrested?

The occupations given by those arrested during this period were as follows:

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>
7,810	Miners
7	Retired Miners
4	MPS (including MEP)
15	Transport Workers incl.
65	Students in Academics
5	Medical Workers incl.
31	Non Manual Workers incl.
209	Manual Workers incl.
10	Firemen
1	Member of HM Forces
48	Housewives
174	Unemployed
2	Retired (Non miners)
79	Not known/given
8,460	

3. What charges have been brought in connection with the dispute?

Between 13 March and 27 November, the following charges were brought for offences committed in connection with the dispute:

<u>NUMBERS</u>	<u>OFFENCE</u>
1. 3,733	Section 5 Public Order Act 1936
2. 1,594	Obstruct Police
3. 611	Obstruct Highway
4. 843	Criminal Damage
a) 4	Criminal Damage with Intent to Endanger Life
b) 15	Arson
5. 308	Assault on Police
6. 318	Assault - Actual Bodily Harm
7. 36	Assault - Grievous Bodily Harm

8.	179	Theft
9.	18	Resist Arrest
10.	47	Offensive Weapon
11.	251	Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act - Beattie
12.	20	Burglary
13.	1	Handling Stolen Property
14.	1	Drug Offence
15.	159	Breach of the Peace
16.	29	Breach of Bail Condition
17.	18	Attempt (Various Offences)
18.	50	Drunkenness
19.	509	Unlawful Assembly
20.	18	Railway Offences
21.	21	Affray
22.	137	Riot
23.	1	Incitement
24.	15	Reckless Driving
25.	12	Threats/Conspiracy to Cause Damage
26.	3	Explosives Offence
27.	3	Threats to Kill
28.	2	Unlawful Imprisonment
29.	167	Other Offences

9,132

4. How many cases have been dealt with by the courts and what sentences have been imposed?

In the period 13 March to 27 November, some 3,484 cases were dealt with by the courts. 743 of the defendants were acquitted. The courts imposed fines (mainly between £10 and £200) in 1773 instances. 861 defendants were bound over to keep the peace and 300 were given absolute or conditional discharge. 73 custodial sentences have been imposed, the longest being of nine months.

**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE
AUTHORITY**

J J Gardner, LLB
Clerk to the Authority
J E Hancock, TD Solicitor
Deputy Clerk to the Authority
Sandyford House
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1ED
Tel. Newcastle [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

My Ref MMcN/PC

Your Ref

Date 11th July, 1984

This matter is being dealt with by Mr. [REDACTED] Ext

Dear Mr. Brittan,

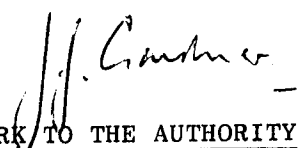
COAL INDUSTRY DISPUTE

The Northumbria Police Authority at its meeting on 10th July 1984 were advised of the additional expenditure incurred to date as a result of the above dispute and in particular of the ability of outside police forces to meet their financial liabilities as a result of the mutual aid afforded to them during the current dispute. As a result of discussions, I was requested to bring to your attention, the following resolution which received all party support:

"In view of its responsibilities to the rate payers and citizens of Northumbria, this Police Authority is most reluctant to respond to mutual aid requests from those forces whose police authorities have indicated, or are in the process of indicating, that they will not recompense this Authority pending the outcome of their negotiations with the Home Office."

I should point out that in passing the above resolution, the Police Authority recognised the statutory position of the Chief Constable under Section 14(1) of the Police Act 1964.

Yours sincerely,


CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY

Miss [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
cc [REDACTED]

The Rt. Hon. Leon Brittan Q.C., M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Home Office
Queen Anne's Gate
London
SW1H 9A7

E.R.

EVENING DURING NUM DISPUTE

9 - 21 August 1981

9 August

10 August

11 August

12 August

13 August

14 August

600 pickets at Philadelphia Workshop in Northumbria. Vehicles used to block the road and missiles thrown at police. 11 PSUs brought situation under control. 22 arrests for public order offences, assault and resisting arrest.

E.R.

15 August

16 August

17 August

18 August

20 August

At Ellington in Northumbria 250 pickets and two working miners. Entrance effected: 8 arrests.

From: [REDACTED] F4 Division, 21 May 1984

cc [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MINERS' DISPUTE: BRIEFING FOR [REDACTED]

You indicated that the next meeting of [REDACTED] is this afternoon at 4.30 pm and asked for updated briefing. I have discussed the briefing with Mr [REDACTED] who has asked me to put it up to you.

Intimidation

2. You will recall that on 16 May Mr Hall, the President of AGPO, provided a report setting out reported instances of intimidation of working miners and their families during the period from 1 May to 15 May (a copy is attached at A for ease of reference). The National Reporting Centre (NRC) has now made arrangements for instances of intimidation to be reported to the NRC and to be included in the daily situation reports. There may, of course, be some delay in the report of incidents to and by the police and the NRC have therefore contacted the forces primarily affected to see whether there are outstanding cases. A note based on these sources, which updates the earlier report, is attached at B.

Arrests, charges and court cases

3. As [REDACTED] has already reported the NRC has set in hand arrangements for the collection of information on charges and court cases. A telex was dispatched to forces last week seeking the information, enclosing a copy of the detailed breakdown of the information required and the example return which Mr [REDACTED] sent to Mr Hall on 4 May (a copy of which you have seen). Early this week the NRC will be receiving returns from the various forces which will provide information from the beginning of the dispute to 18 May. The NRC has been asked to ensure that we are in a position to provide this information to you in time for Cabinet on Thursday. On Wednesday and each Wednesday thereafter, a further return will be required from forces to update the information.

NUMBERS OF POLICE INJURED

<u>Police Force</u>	<u>Number of Officers Injured</u>
Cleveland	2
Derbyshire	218
Durham	22
Essex	7
Greater Manchester	11
Gwent	1
Humberside	2
Kent	54
Lancashire	1
Merseyside	4
Metropolitan	4
Norfolk	15
Northumbria	17
North Wales	1
North Yorkshire	14
Nottinghamshire	130
South Wales	7
South Yorkshire	217
Staffordshire	18
Sussex	2
Warwickshire	2
West Yorkshire	37
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	786
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All figures as at 7.00 am 1 October



h/c [redacted]

h/c [redacted]

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

16 July 1984

Mrs [redacted] 16/8

Dear Michael,

I attach a note from the police on intimidation and a note on numbers arrested and of police injured. I hope that these prove useful for the Chancellor's speech. I should say that the numbers of cases of intimidation may not be too accurate since they are collected by different forces on different bases, so I am led to understand. It would be better, therefore, to make broad brush assertions and give examples. I am afraid that most of these are, however, not the stuff of which tragic tales are easily made. But the overall picture is extremely damning.

You kindly agreed to let our people see the speech before it is issued. This is, of course, particularly important in the light of the Prime Minister's meeting on these matters this evening.

I hope that this gives you what you need. If we can help further, of course we will.

Yours,

Robin

[redacted]

Michael Portillo Esq

Sds

See conclusions
on last 2 pages,
in particular

NATIONAL REPORTING CENTRE
NEW SCOTLAND YARD
12th JULY 1984

FROM: MR. D. HALL
C. C. HUMBERSIDE
PRESIDENT A. C. P. Q.

12/7

2 copies - find £100 for person
stomach

J This is v. helpful. CD or form has on how further reports of this kind

- (1) with dates of events
- (2) information as to charges, INTIMIDATION
or of least events, similar as incidents.

LB 12/7/84

Forwarded for your information, is a report regarding intimidation which has occurred in Force Areas directly connected with the mining dispute. A breakdown of such incidents reported to the police in these areas is itemised on a Force basis.

NORTHUMBRIA

In this Force area since the commencement of the dispute, all collieries have been closed as a result of the solidarity shown in support of the NUM action. Few incidents of intimidation have been reported, owing to few persons returning or openly showing a will to return to work. Last Friday, a letter was sent to all employees offering them the opportunity and facility of transport, to return to their place of employment. In view of the content of this letter being readily available to members of the NUM Executive representing this area, substantial picketing occurred at all collieries on the following Monday. It is well known that such large numbers will always attend in the North East areas to thwart any attempt to return to work.

Particular hostility has always been shown to female members of COSA working at Philadelphia Workshops, but this is confined to verbal abuse at the site.

| At Ashington Coal Company, a watchman was threatened after confronting two men who stated that they intended to damage machinery.

A transport organiser at the NCB Area HQ, received a threatening telephone call from a person who stated 'he would receive a visit' unless the transport was stopped.

A coach hire company at Westerhope, Newcastle, received a telephone call threatening to set fire to his property, if he participated in the transportation of miners to work.

A haulage contractor at Bedlington, who transports coal, received a telephone threat and a few days later all his lorry windscreens were smashed when the vehicles were parked overnight.

Plant machinery has been tampered with at private open cast sites.

ANNEX C

ARRESTS

<u>Police force area</u>	<u>Number of arrests</u>
Derbyshire	193
Durham	92
Essex	157
Greater Manchester	18
Humberside	1
Kent	48
Lancashire	2
Leicestershire	18
Merseyside	21
Northumberland	40
North Wales	14
Nottinghamshire	1,127
South Wales	58
South Yorkshire	190
Staffordshire	178
Warwickshire	81
West Yorkshire	6
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TOTAL	2,244
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INJURIES TO POLICE OFFICERS

<u>Police force area</u>	<u>Number of injuries</u>
Derbyshire	42
Durham	9
Essex	2
Greater Manchester	1
Kent	2
Leicestershire	1
Northumbria	8
North Wales	1
Nottinghamshire	110
South Wales	1
South Yorkshire	54
Staffordshire	7
Warwickshire	1
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TOTAL	239
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From: [REDACTED], F4 Division, 9 August 1984

cc Mr [REDACTED]
Mr [REDACTED]
Miss [REDACTED]
Mr [REDACTED]

Mr [REDACTED]

HOME SECRETARY'S SPEECH IN ARBROATH: OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

I understand that the Home Secretary may answer questions, and is likely to give press/TV interviews, following his speech, in Arbroath on Saturday, about the miners' dispute.

2. Against the possibility that the Home Secretary might wish to refer to, or be asked about, specific instances of convictions/penalties for offences committed during the dispute, I asked the National Reporting Centre to conduct a swift survey of information readily available from force records, to supplement the general statistical report for the week.

... 3. I attach the resulting note from the NRC. Obviously, this is merely a sample, and not necessarily a representative one; the penalties imposed for convictions of the same offence vary (no doubt much because of the differing circumstances of the offence and the offender); and, as the press release of the Home Secretary's speech notes, most if not all of the serious cases, triable on indictment, have yet to be determined. This may suggest that there is not great play to be made with the information. But should it prove useful, I have marked with an X those cases which it may not seem counter-productive to cite, as appropriate or if necessary.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

F4 Division

9 August 1984

NORTHUMBRIA

- X 1. Arrested 29th March 1984 at Blythe Power Station, for
Section 5 and Obstruct Police.

Appeared 14th May 1984 at Ashington Magistrates' Court and
Fined £250 and £100, to pay £25 Costs.

2. Arrested 4th April 1984 at Philadelphia for Section 5.

Appeared 3rd July 1984 at Houghton Magistrates' Court and
Fined £30.

FROM: [REDACTED], 28 Jan 1980
(x 5345)

OO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

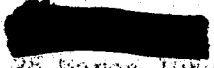
NUM DISPUTE: INTIMIDATION

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no further

6. The only incident in this area which the police had not previously reported was an assault on an ex-striker on 15 March at Broomhill. An ex-working miner has been charged with an offence under section 47 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 (assault occasioning actual bodily harm).


25 March 1982

F8 Division