

Original a
Fishing Policy Pt 2



C. WARR
C. Doyle
A. B. Wood
(T. Clerk)

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 April 1980

My dear Lord Mayor,

When we met in Hull on 14 March you gave me a letter setting out the City Council's views about maintaining the city's fishing and processing industries, and you enclosed with your letter figures showing the net cost of operating the dock and an estimate of income made on certain assumptions. These figures showed that there would be a significant shortfall between income and costs. Since my visit I have also received letters from Councillor Doyle, the Leader of the City Council, and from the Town Clerk.

As you know, a proportion of the aid for the fishing industry announced by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on 13 March will be available for use by the Fish Producers' Organisations Limited, in whose economic area Hull falls. They will be able to make a judgement in the light of their priorities about how far the money which will be available to them can be allocated in ways which would benefit Hull. I understand that they have not yet reached any final decisions. The programme of exploratory voyages which Peter Walker announced on the same day could also benefit trawlers which have traditionally been based in Hull.

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I have now been asked by the Town Clerk in his letter of 24 March that other funds be made available directly for the preservation of the fish landing facilities in your City. When I discussed the situation with representatives of the fishing industry during my visit, I made it plain that I could give no undertaking about possible Government aid for any new scheme. But I did say that I would be ready to listen to any reasonable proposition about the future of the port and I have agreed to the request of Mr. David Cairns of the Transport and General Workers' Union that I should meet a deputation for a discussion on 24 April. No doubt any proposals which they may put to me will be based on up-dated estimates of the cost of maintaining the fish handling facilities and likely levels of activity and income.

I am sending copies of this letter to Councillor Doyle and to Mr. Wood.

Yours sincerely,

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The Lord Mayor of Kingston upon Hull

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