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PREM 19/878

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please file
cf. 8/1

10 DOWNING STREET

Caroline

Jimmy Savile will apparently be writing to invite the Prime Minister to visit the building works at Stoke Mandeville.

Norman Fowler has suggested that this might be an opportunity for the Prime Minister to make a ceremonial hand-over of the Government's cheque for £0.5m. He suggests this would give the appeal useful publicity.

I have told Mr Fowler's office that we will consider these suggestions when we receive

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Jimmy Savile's letter, and that in the meantime he should do nothing to steal the PM's thunder (now Fowler was thinking of handing over the cheque himself).

The PM may well wish to do this one weekend from Chequers. The only argument against is that it might be seen as making too much of a meal of the Government's donation (which is only £500 000 after all). But Norman Fowler is very much in favour of this.

LM
8/1

cc Mr Battishill
Mr Ingham

Prime Minister

This is the line that Mr Fowler recommends you take. He has decided on £½m because he would like to make available a similar amount to other worthy causes over the next few months – to show our interest in the disabled has not ended with the end of IYDP.

MR. RICKETT

WJR
31/12

JIMMY SAVILE: STOKE MANDEVILLE SPINAL UNIT APPEAL

"This has been the International Year of Disabled People. Our concern must continue; we must not let our involvement come to an end with the passing of 1981. But this is nonetheless a good moment, as we come to the end of the year, to express our continuing admiration to give special recognition to what we owe as a community to the disabled. I am very happy to be able to say that, in commemoration of this, Norman Fowler has agreed that the Government should make a contribution of £½ m. to one of the most important causes of this past year - and one which has attracted the enthusiasm of people from all walks of life - Jimmy Savile's Appeal for the rebuilding of the Stoke Mandeville Spinal Injuries Unit."

David Clark

Department of Health and Social Security

31 December 1981

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PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Fowler has agreed to make available £½ - 1m for the Stoke Mandeville Appeal, and he agrees that you should announce this tomorrow. A brief will reach us tomorrow morning.

A final decision has yet to be taken on the exact amount, but the final figure will be given in the brief. Whatever it is, it will come from within the DHSS's existing PES provisions, and will therefore not require Treasury agreement. I will, however, warn the Chancellor's office.

Mr. Fowler warns that in marking the end of IYDP in this way, we should be careful not to give the impression that this marks the end of the Government's interest in the disabled. IYDP line on.

WFSR

30 December 1981

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E. R.

WEEKEND BOX

PM.

PRIME MINISTER

When Jimmy Savile came to lunch with you at Chequers and you told him that you would try and get a Government contribution for Stoke Mandeville Hospital what exactly had you in mind? Could you let us know:-

1) The sum of money you envisaged.

2) Whether you are happy for us to follow this through in the normal way.

C.S.

25 March 1981

Will discuss with P.J.

Mike
Shall I put P.J. in the diary after India?
C.S. 30/3

I have warned DHSS that PM may raise this with Mr Jenkin. No further action. MAP

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E. R.

PRIME MINISTER

Can you kindly let me know if you made any promises to Jimmy Savile when he lunched with you yesterday, for instance:

(i) Did you offer him any money for Stoke Mandeville? - Will tell you in detail. MT

(ii) Did you tell him that you would appear on Jim'll Fix It? No

C.S.

Promised to take some personal money one after noon to Stoke Mandeville.

9 March 1981

Promised to get govt contribution. MT

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TF

Prime Minister.

6 iii

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Minister for Health

b/w when PM. is not busy!
CP. 20/8/81

M A Pattison Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
SW1

6 March 1981

B/F 23/9/81?

Dear Mike,

I promised in my letter of 16 February to write again about the possibility of some form of Government support for the Stoke Mandeville appeal. I understand that the Prime Minister is to see Jimmy Savile again on Sunday.

Dr Vaughan has been looking for an opportunity for the Prime Minister to show her support, but nothing suitable has yet in his view arisen. He will remain on the look-out. In the meantime it is likely that Mr Savile himself has some suggestions to make, on which Dr Vaughan would, of course, be happy to advise.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Knight

J E KNIGHT
Private Secretary

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RG

CS to see cl. 17/2
NA. MAP

PM

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY
Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY
Telephone 01-407 5522
From the Minister for Health

M Pattison Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

GF 23 2.81

16 February 1981

Dear Mike,

I am sorry not to have replied sooner to your letter of 28 January reporting Jimmy Savile's enquiry about the possibility of some form of Government support for the Stoke Mandeville appeal.

This has posed a tricky question. Dr Vaughan's personal view is that it would be a mistake to put in NHS money, and that what is needed is a symbolic gesture; such as the donation of the first brick (if this were not too late). Dr Vaughan is considering urgently what might be an appropriate gesture of support and I will write again as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely
Jeremy Knight

J E KNIGHT
Private Secretary

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SUBJECT c/master

PM

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 January 1981

Jimmy Savile had a private word with the Prime Minister this morning to show her the architect's plans for Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

I understand that he raised with her the possibility of some Government support for the appeal, as a goodwill gesture to the many members of the public who have contributed. The Prime Minister pressed him about the kind of sum he had in mind, but I understand that he was more concerned with the token of a contribution than the amount. He was not pressing for an immediate decision, and he would quite understand if the Prime Minister's answer was that this was impossible.

I should be grateful if you could let us have Dr. Vaughan's advice as to what response the Prime Minister might make to this approach. She naturally made no commitment at the time.

M. A. PATTISON

Jeremy Knight Esq
Department of Health and Social Security.

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10 DOWNING STREET

MR. PATTISON

Jimmy Savile saw the the Prime Minister this morning with the architect's plans for Stoke Mandeville Hospital. He suggested to her that as a goodwill gesture to all the members of the public who had contributed, the Prime Minister might be prepared to give a "Government grant". The Prime Minister said was he thinking of a million pounds and Mr. Savile replied that they would be grateful for any sum, and that there was absolutely no hurry at all, and that equally he would understand if she had to come back to him and say that this was not possible.

C.S. P.R. noted no commitment!

28 January 1981

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cc BIR ds

Brave Minister

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 April 1980

Dear Jimmy

I promised on 25 February that I would write to you again about the covenant system for donations to charity. You will have understood that I wanted to wait until after the Budget to do so.

Geoffrey Howe announced in the Budget two significant changes in the way the covenant system works, which I am sure will encourage more people to use it. The first is that the period for which covenants to charity must be capable of running is being reduced from seven years to four, so that people will no longer have to commit themselves to such a long time. The second is that from next year we shall allow tax relief on covenant payments to run at the higher personal income tax rates and not just at the basic rate as at present.

There are good reasons why it is not possible to do away with the covenant system altogether, but these two steps ought to give considerable encouragement to charities.

Yours sincerely

MT

Jimmy Savile, Esq., O.B.E.

jfh

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THE BOARD ROOM
INLAND REVENUE
SOMERSET HOUSE

P S 7/13/76

2 April 1980

1. PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE CHANCELLOR

2. PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER
(MR PATTISON)

PRIME MINISTER'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH JIMMY SAVILE

Mr Pattison's letter of 25 February asked that once the proposals about charitable covenants had been made public you should provide a further draft of a letter for the Prime Minister to send to Jimmy Savile.

We suggest:

> "I sent you on 25 February an interim letter about the covenant system for donations to charity, and promised I would write again later.
>
> As I explained in that letter, this is quite a complicated subject and there are good reasons why it is not practicable to do away with the covenant system altogether. But you may have seen that in his Budget Speech Geoffrey Howe announced a number of measures intended to assist charities, including two which will ease the operation of the covenant system significantly and encourage more people to use it.
>
> The first of these is that we are reducing effectively from seven years to four years, the period for which covenants to charity must be capable of running - intending benefactors will no longer have to commit themselves for so long a time as previously. The second is that, starting next year, we shall allow tax relief on covenanted payments to run at the higher personal rates of income tax and not just at the basic rate as at present. Both these changes, incidentally, follow the recommendations of Lord Goodman's Committee on Charities, which examined this whole question a little time ago.
>
> I hope you will feel, as we do, that these two steps should give considerable encouragement to charitable giving through covenants."

AWK

A W Kuczys

Private Secretary

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① ~~J. Pattison~~ PM
② Prime Minister

PRIME MINISTER

With your encouragement, * ~~~~~~~~~~ * Jimmy Savile has made an excellent start with his campaign to raise money to re-build Stoke Mandeville. The fund is approaching £300,000, largely from small donations which are coming in well. He and I, with the Department, have also established a number of potential sources of more major finance; and (though he is keeping this confidential at this stage) Victor Matthews has promised him full involvement - of the Express newspapers and, even more important, of the building components of the Trafalgar Group (Trollope and Colls and Cementation).

2.

* ~~~~~~~~~~ *

3. I will keep you in touch with developments. Success in this appeal will contribute to an understanding of our policy of involving the public in supporting the health care system.

G.V.

6th March 1980 G.V.

~ Passages deleted and closed, 40 years, under FOI Exemption.

EM Wayland
11 October 2012

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SECRET

Prime Minister 2
BU 28/3.

25 February 1980

Thank you for your letter of 21 February, about the future of the seven year covenant system.

I enclose a copy of the interim reply which the Prime Minister has now sent to Jimmy Savile. Once the changes which you foreshadow have been made public, I would be grateful for a draft reply on their timing and impact.

MAP

R.I. Tolkien, Esq.,
HM Treasury.

SECRET

Catalogue Reference:prem/19/878 Image Reference:1

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 February, 1980.

Dear Jimmy,

When you came to see me on 6 February, * [redacted] * asked me how you could take up the question of the covenant system for donations to charity.

I am interested in the subject myself, and I am now looking into it. Please leave it with me, and I will write to you about it again within a few weeks. It is quite a complicated subject, and I am sorry that I cannot give you any instant answer.

Yours ever,

(SGD) MT

Jimmy Savile, Esq., O.B.E.

~ Passage deleted and closed, 40 years, under FOI Exemption.

[redacted]
11 October 2012

Catalogue Reference:prem/19/878 Image Reference:1

Back to me after dispatch

MA 25/2

10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

Jimmy Savile asked you about the length of time necessary for charitable covenants to qualify for tax relief. * ~~~~ * ~~~~ *

The attached note from the Treasury reveals that the Chancellor has already decided to reduce the time period from 7 years to 4 in the next Finance Bill.

We can not even hint at this to Jimmy Savile at present. We have to treat it as a Budget secret. Would you like to write to Jimmy promising to take it up personally as in the attached draft? We will then give you a follow-up letter when the Budget announcement has been made.

MA

22 February 1980

* ~~~ * Passage deleted and closed, 40 years, under FOI Exemption

CWayland

11 October 2012

Catalogue Reference:prem/19/878 Image Reference:1

SECRET

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

21st February 1980

Dear Mike,

You wrote to Martin Hall on 6th February seeking the Chancellor's reactions to the Prime Minister's comments about the "7 year covenant system" and the possibility of reducing the "7 year" period.

The 7 year minimum period was introduced for all covenants - not merely covenants to charities - in 1922.

Whether this period is right for covenants to chartities in modern conditions is a matter of judgement. For some charities it is too long and constitutes a disincentive. Moreover, in times of high inflation a short period has the advantage of facilitating the more frequent raising of the amount of the payment if the covenantor is willing. Other charities are less convinced that the period should be shortened because they like the assurance of future income and the lighter administrative burden of arranging the renewal of continuing deeds.

The Goodman Committee on Charity Law and Voluntary Organisations, having weighed the pros and cons, came down in favour of shortening the period and the National Council of Social Service has endorsed their recommendation. We have already decided to make the change in the coming Finance Bill. The reduction will be from 7 years to 4 years (or more accurately from "a period which can exceed 6 years" to "a period which can exceed 3 years"), which was what the Goodman Committee and the National Council of Social Service asked for.

Yours,
Richard

(R.I. TOLKIEN)
Private Secretary

M.A. Pattison, Esq.,
Private Secretary,
10, Downing Street

SECRET

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TWELVE MILES A DAY MEANS

JIM'S "DAILY DOZEN"

(RUN - WALK - STAGGER - LIMP)

31 TOWNS AND CITIES IN 31 DAYS
FOR THE WHOLE MONTH OF OCTOBER 1979

START OCTOBER 1st
PORTSMOUTH
SOUTHAMPTON
PLYMOUTH
BRISTOL
CARDIFF
OXFORD
COVENTRY
BIRMINGHAM
STOKE
LIVERPOOL
BLACKPOOL
BOLTON
MANCHESTER
LEEDS
LONDON AREA
ENFIELD
CROYDON
PERIVALE
CITY CENTRE
MEDWAY TOWNS
IPSWICH
NORWICH
LEICESTER
NOTTINGHAM
SHEFFIELD
HULL
MIDDLESBROUGH
NEWCASTLE
EDINBURGH
ABERDEEN
GLASGOW
CARLISLE
FINISH OCTOBER 31st

Bx

Flat 84,
22 Park Crescent
W.1.
580-0880.

Dear Prime Minister,

I waited a week before writing to thank you for my lunch invitation because I had such a superb time I didn't want to be too effusive. My girl patients pretended to be madly jealous + wanted to know what you wore + what you ate. All the paralyzed lads called me 'Sir James' all week.

They all love you

Me too!!

Jimmy Savile
OBE
xxx

A never-before type sponsored charity walk

G/5317

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PRIME MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL

B/F B-280

6 February 1980

Mr. Jimmy Savile, O.B.E. came into No. 10 today for a presentation ceremony in connection with the NSPCC.

As you may know, he is now engaged in an effort to raise £10m. for Stoke Mandeville Hospital.* ~~~~~ * He has asked the Prime Minister how he should pursue the question of tax deduction for charitable donations.

The Prime Minister has commented that, in her view, the 7 year covenant system is a considerable disincentive to those who are contemplating charitable donations and that 3 years might be a more reasonable period.

I would be grateful if you could let us have the Chancellor's reactions on this issue.

A copy of this letter goes to Jeremy Knight in Dr. Vaughan's office at the Department of Health and Social Security* ~~~~~ *

M. A. PATTISON

Martin Hall, Esq.,
HM Treasury

CONFIDENTIAL

~~ Passages deleted and closed, 40 years, under FOI Exemption, CWayland, 11 Oct. 2012

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The National Archives

LETTERCODE/SERIES PREM 19 PIECE/ITEM 878 (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract/Item details: Letter from Jimmy Saville to Prime Minister (undated)	
CLOSED FOR 40 YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	11 October 2012 C Wayland
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	
MISSING ON TRANSFER	
MISSING	
NUMBER NOT USED	

Catalogue Reference:prem/19/878 Image Reference:1

The National Archives

LETTERCODE/SERIES PREM 19 PIECE/ITEM 878 (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract/Item details: Telephone message from Jimmy Savile dated 5 February 1980	
CLOSED FOR ...40.....YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	11 October 2012 C Wayland
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