



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Rt Hon Mrs Amber Rudd MP
Home Secretary
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13th September 2016

Dear Home Secretary,

We are writing to you to urge you to agree to an independent inquiry into Orgreave.

As you are no doubt aware, in South Yorkshire, Orgreave was a clash between police and miners and South Yorkshire police need to account for their actions. Despite being 30 years on, miners and families deserve answers to what happened and why evidence was fabricated which could have condemned men merely picketing to save their jobs to prison for life. As Police & Crime Commissioners, we fully appreciate the good work that South Yorkshire police are doing under the leadership of their PCC, Alan Billings and interim Chief Constable, Stephen Watson, but the passage of time does not mean that the mining communities across our country no longer deserve answers.

The government has acknowledged the errors of Hillsborough, yet refuse to move on Orgreave, yet it has been reported that senior police officers and a solicitor who were involved in the South Yorkshire response to Hillsborough were also involved in Orgreave. The same solicitor was involved in defending the force against unlawful arrest claims after the 1984 Orgreave clash, who played a key role in reviewing statements after Hillsborough. Similarly, some senior officers were involved in both events and were also involved in a review of the evidence after Orgreave had links with Hillsborough. There appears to be policing operational similarities between both events and the fact that the same officers were involved causes grave concerns to us. We appreciate that information will come from a number of organisations involved as well as South Yorkshire police (NUM, other forces, central government), but it is important to make a start.

The Hillsborough inquiry gave families justice. Sadly, the Prime Minister during her time as Home Secretary spent many months considering the legal submissions from the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign group without coming to a decision. We understand that this consideration has been passed on to yourself, and we urge you to

agree to an inquiry to show that this government is big enough to say when something goes wrong, answers are needed – it's the least our mining communities deserve.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best wishes

Vera Baird QC

Police & Crime Commissioner
Northumbria.

Mark Burn Williamson

Police & Crime Commissioner
West Yorkshire.

Barry Coppinger

Police & Crime Commissioner
Cleveland.

Tony Lloyd

Police & Crime Commissioner
Greater Manchester.

Alun Michael

Police & Crime Commissioner
South Wales

Jane Kennedy

Police & Crime Commissioner
Merseyside.

Hardyal Dhindsa.

Police & Crime Commissioner
Derbyshire

Ron Hogg

Police & Crime Commissioner
Durham.

Dr Alan Billings

Police & Crime Commissioner
South Yorkshire.

Jeff Cuthbert

Police & Crime Commissioner
Gwent

Paddy Tipping

Police & Crime Commissioner
Nottinghamshire.

David Keane

Police & Crime Commissioner
Cheshire

Clive Grunshaw

Police & Crime Commissioner.
Lancashire.

Lord Willy Bach

Police & Crime Commissioner
Leicestershire.

Keith Hunter

Police & Crime Commissioner
Humberside.

David Jamieson

Police & Crime Commissioner
West Midlands