



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

Attached is a letter from  
Gordon Brown, M.P. for  
Dunfermline, asking if you  
would meet him to discuss  
the future of a company  
closing a factory in his  
constituency.

Agree?

Yes

TJ. ms

TIM FLESHER

13 September, 1983



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

cc: M. Alison (13/9)

11th September 1983

Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,  
10 Downing Street,  
London.

(13/9)

Dear Prime Minister,

You indicated in the House of Commons some time ago that you would be prepared to meet any MP from a constituency in which a company closure was threatened. I am writing to ask you for a meeting to discuss the future of Fisher Controls, which currently employs 258 workers, in the town of Cowdenbeath.

The company has announced this week that they are to rationalise their UK operations. The proposed rationalisation involves the closure of two existing factories, one in Cowdenbeath and another in Rochester, and the consolidation of production in the proposed North West Kent Enterprise Zone. The primary matter of concern is the loss of jobs in an area which has one of the worst unemployment rates in Europe, and which does not at present enjoy special development status. However, the proposed consolidation also raises questions about the Government's future intentions for Scottish regional policy. In particular, it now seems clear that the financial advantages available in an Enterprise Zone in the South of England, combined with the obvious geographical advantages of a southern location, undermine attempts at a regional policy. There is, of course, no regional dimension to Enterprise Zone status.

I hope that you will find it possible to meet me to discuss the points I raise.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Brown

Gordon Brown MP (Dunfermline East)