

Bolsover District Council Labour Group

Cabinet Room
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Tel: 01246 242424
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Date: 10th November 2016

The Rt. Hon. Amanda Rudd MP
Home Secretary
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Dear Home Secretary

I am writing to you, on behalf of Bolsover District Council Labour Group, to ask you to set up an independent public inquiry or panel concerning the actions of the police at the Orgreave coking plant on 18th June 1984 during the 1984/5 Miners Strike. On that day dozens of truncheon armed mounted officers and snatch squads in riot gear brutally attacked picketing miners. Many miners were injured and 95 miners were arrested and charged with either riot or unlawful assembly. The trial of the arrested miners collapsed when the Prosecution abandoned the case after it became clear that the police had falsified evidence.

Some miners were later financially compensated but there was never any investigation into police conduct for assault, wrongful arrest, false prosecution and lying in evidence. Not a single officer faced disciplinary or criminal proceedings and nobody was held to account for orchestrating attacking and arresting the miners. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) have since stated that there are "doubts about the ethical standards of officers in the highest ranks of South Yorkshire Police at the time"

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The Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign (OTJC) provided the previous Home Secretary, Theresa May with a lengthy legal submission in December 2015 calling on her to set up an independent public inquiry. In light of the announcement in the House of Commons that you are not prepared to hold an independent public enquiry we would urge you to reconsider this decision and formally set up the process for a formal public enquiry to be undertaken.

We believe that the issue of Orgreave is of local and national importance. A response to the OTJC about a full investigation into the violent and military style of policing on 18th June 1984, the demonising of picketing miners and the subsequent perjury by the police is now long overdue.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Jim Smith
Chair
Bolsover District Council Labour Group

cc Jeremy Corbyn MP
 Dennis Skinner MP
 Andy Burnham MP

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