

Submitted by Councillor Bond

St Helens Council is concerned and disappointed by the previous Home Secretary's rejection on the 31st October 2016 of calls for an Inquiry into the policing of events at Orgreave coking plant on the 18th June 1984.

St Helens Council is pleased to note the decision by the Scottish Parliament on 7th June 2018 to order an independent review to investigate and subsequently report on the impact of policing on affected communities in Scotland during the period of the miners' strike from March 1984- March 1985.

St Helens Council further praises the decision of the Welsh Assembly on 12th June 2018 to write to the Home Secretary to ask for an independent review into policing in England and Wales during the miners' strike. Further the Welsh Assembly wrote again on the 13th June 2018 requesting the Home Secretary orders an inquiry specifically into the policing at Orgreave

St Helens Council notes that 95 miners were arrested and charged with offences but were all later acquitted. Miners and their families were adversely affected by the events of that day in terms of wrongful arrest, false imprisonment, ill-health, family breakdown and termination of employment, as a direct result of policing tactics at Orgreave. A full investigation into the policing on that day is long overdue and only a full public inquiry can fully investigate this.

St Helens Council observes that the Independent Police Complaints Commission commented in a report released in June 2015 that "there was evidence of excessive violence by police officers, and a false narrative from police exaggerating violence by miners, perjury by officers giving evidence to prosecute the arrested men, and an apparent cover-up of that perjury by senior officers".

St Helens Council is of the view that the Home Secretary needs to acknowledge the actions of the Scottish parliament and the call from the Welsh assembly.

St Helens Council will write to the Home Secretary and ask that he/she acknowledges the response of the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments, explains what action has been taken in response, takes into account the opinion of St Helens Council, accepts that there is widespread public concern about events at Orgreave and calls for him/her to order a full public enquiry into the events of the 18th June 1984.