

Prime Minister

I attach earlier notes about the possibility of appointing a Vice-Chairman in the Scottish Conservative Party with responsibility for local government.

stephen has since sough George Younger's advice on the suggestion that Mrs Jean Chalmers should be appointed, and George Younger recommends that you should agree to this proposal.

Are you content for Michael to write back to James Goold giving your approval for this, and saying that he can go ahead with the appointment whenever he thinks is suitable?

Yes
mb.

I will sign

TESSA

19.10.84

Prime Minister

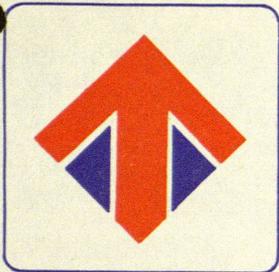
In the attached letter Sir James Goold believes there should be a Vice-Chairman in the Scottish Conservative Party with sole responsibility for local government organisation and he proposes Mrs Jean Chalmers of East Kilbryde.

1. Do you want me to take George Younger's mind on this before you reply?
2. Do you want to consult anybody else?
3. Do you want to accept Sir James Goold's advice and recommendation, and if so may I reply accordingly?

Lesson

M STEPHEN SHERBOURNE
24.9.84

*He spoke to me about
this when we were in
Scotland - we should
consult George Younger
only not*



Chairman: Sir James Gould CA FCIQB
Deputy Chairman: Dr Alistair Smith CBE
Vice-Chairman: Ian Lang MP

Director: William R Henderson TD
Deputy Directors: Robert M Balfour
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Our Ref: JDG/BL

20th September, 1984

Michael Allison, Esq., M.P.,
10 Downing Street,
London.
SW1.

Dear Michael,

During the Prime Minister's recent tour of Scotland I discussed with her my concern about the state of our Local Government organisation within the Party.

Our next local elections are for our Regional Councils in 1986. The period from now to the start of the campaign will be crucial and we have begun the build-up of our preparations, the formation of policies and plans, and the selection of candidates. The most vital factor will be the co-ordination of the Conservative message to the people of Scotland and I am delighted that the Secretary of State for Scotland and his Ministers are being most helpful in this respect.

However, as I explained to the Prime Minister, I believe that it would be beneficial if we were to appoint another Vice Chairman with sole responsibility for Local Government organisation within the Party. The person I have in mind is Mrs. Jean Chalmers of East Kilbride. Both Dr. Alistair Smith, my Deputy Chairman and Ian Lang, my Vice Chairman approve of this suggestion.

If the Prime Minister is also in agreement it would be helpful if the appointment could be made fairly soon as the fight to gain seats in the Regional Council elections must begin immediately and this of course will lead on towards the next general election. If, however, the Prime Minister prefers that we should continue as at present, then we will allocate responsibility for areas of the country amongst the three of us and endeavour to achieve the same improvement.

Kindest regards.

James Gould

James Gould

B/F After Party
Conference



SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

Mr Stephen Sherbourne
Political Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

4 October 1984

Dear Mr Sherbourne

The Secretary of State has asked me to thank you for your letter of 26 September seeking his advice on James Gould's recommendation that Mrs Jean Chalmers should be appointed a Vice Chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party with responsibility for local government.

He has asked me to say that he recommends that the Prime Minister should agree to this proposal.

Yours Sincerely

Sheila McCabe

SHEILA McCABE
Private Secretary