
Report To:	The Inverclyde Council	Date: 21 February 2013
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources	Report No: SL/LA/968/13
Contact Officer:	Sharon Lang	Contact No: 01475 712112
Subject:	Review of Cases in Scotland - Miners and Others Convicted During the 1984/85 Strike - Motion by Councillor Loughran	

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider a motion from Councillor Loughran, counter-signed by Councillor McIlwee, supporting a review of cases in Scotland concerning miners and others convicted during the 1984/85 strike, which has been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 22. The motion is as follows:

1.2 "Council notes with concern the recent revelations regarding the actions of South Yorkshire Police and the alleged duplication of statements, fabrication of police reports, instances of perjury, assault, perverting the course of justice and misconduct in public office in relation to police conduct at Hillsborough and Orgreave; further notes that South Yorkshire Police has referred itself to the Independent Police Complaints Commission for an investigation into these complaints.

Council is keen to ensure that no similar malpractice occurred in Scotland; calls upon the Justice Secretary Kenny McAskill to initiate an independent review of all cases of Miners and others convicted in Scotland and instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Scottish Government supporting the call for such a review."

1.3 A copy of the letter to the Council Leader from Neil Findlay MSP and David Hamilton MP raising this issue is attached as an appendix. APPENDIX

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Council is requested to consider the motion detailed above.

Sharon Lang
Legal & Democratic Services



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Councillor Stephen McCabe
The Leader of Inverclyde Council Labour Group

January 2013

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Dear Stephen

You may have seen recent press coverage of the controversy surrounding the conduct of South Yorkshire Police in relation to the Hillsborough stadium disaster and the arrests of Miners and others at the Orgreave coke plant during the 1984/85 Miner's strike. We are contacting you specifically about the situation at Orgreave and how the consequences of what happened there might have impacted upon people in Scotland.

Revelations in a recent BBC documentary about Orgreave suggest that the South Yorkshire Police were guilty of assault, perjury, perverting the course of justice and misconduct in public office. Now that this has come to light the Police have referred themselves to the Independent Police complaints commission for investigation.

In Scotland over 1000 people were arrested during the Miner's Strike with around 500 convicted, many sacked as a result. Given that there is now strong evidence of widespread malpractice south of the border we want to be sure that this was not repeated in Scotland and have called for the Justice Minister, Kenny McAskill to initiate a review of all cases of people convicted in Scotland during the strike.

Since making this call we have been overwhelmed by support with hundreds of people every week joining the campaign. We have also been contacted by many individuals who were convicted at the time and who say that the charges against them were bogus or exaggerated. We are therefore asking the Labour Group to seek to submit a motion to the full Council in support of our call for a Scotland wide review of all cases. Enclosed is a motion that you may wish to submit to the Council, following it up with a letter to the Justice Secretary, Kenny McAskill.

Neil Findlay MSP for the Lothians (Labour)
Local Office, 4 Northfield Court, West Calder, EH55 8DS
tel: 01506 873242 e-mail: neil.findlay.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
web: www.neilfindlaymsp.com

You can also support our campaign by visiting <http://www.neilfindlaymsp.com/> and signing up to the email campaign.

I hope you will give this serious consideration.

Best wishes

Neil Findlay MSP Lothian (Labour)

David Hamilton MP Midlothian

Motion for consideration by your Council - Review of cases in Scotland – Miners and other convicted during the 194/85 strike

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web: www.neilfindlaymsp.com