

Question to the Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets).

Councillor Tomlinson,

This statement was read out not by Margaret Thatcher but Sir Keir Starmer commenting on the governments awarding of contracts and I quote.

*“This is not the Prime Minister’s money, its taxpayers’ money. The PM may well not know the value of the pound in his pocket, but the people who send us here do, and they expect us to spend it wisely,”*

Councillor Tomlinson when I send my rates money to SRBC I expect it, as Sir Keir Starmer stated, to be spent wisely, and the process of that spend to be fully visible to the ratepayer.

I consider the awarding contracts “behind closed doors” to be an affront to the ratepayer.

It may be considered magnanimous of you to award contracts to local businesses but I consider that does not satisfy the economic necessitates of good transparent business practice.

Another issue that may arise is the problem of perceived corruption. I am not accusing you of corruption but this method of awarding building contracts leaves you open to accusations that you may be.

My Questions are as follows:-

1. Will you cancel the awarded contract and put out the scheme to tender?
2. If you won’t cancel the project will you publish to the ratepayers its cost?

Mr Bernard Derbyshire