

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 10 July 1596 from the Archbishop and Council of York to the Privy Council complaining of the conduct of Richard Atkinson of Ripon. See also CP 42/10.

The last three endorsements, including the endorsement 'Earl of Oxford not to be touched', appear to have been added to this letter in error; the mention of the names Elson and Cawley indicate that the last three endorsements concern a scandal in 1601/2 involving, not Richard Atkinson of Ripon, but the customs searcher at Hull, Anthony Atkinson. See a letter dated 28 March 1602 from Anthony Atkinson, 'prisoner in Newgate', to his 'master', Sir Robert Cecil, CP 92/79.

May it please your good Lordships to be advertised that whereas both the authority of this Council and the proceedings of certain Justices of Peace within the county of York hath been lately attempted to be brought into great question & disgrace by the contemptuous & wilful proceedings of one Richard Atkinson of Ripon, who seeketh to call into examination the jurisdiction of this Council by pursuing of divers actions of false imprisonment against the keeper of York Castle, the tipstaff here attending, and one Rounder, gaoler of Ripon, the same Atkinson being justly imprisoned for his contemptuous & lewd behaviour, as by a declaration here enclosed the whole cause & the proceedings thereof will appear unto your good Lordships.

And upon complaint by us the last term unto your Lordships, it pleased you to direct your letters bearing date the 20<sup>th</sup> of June to me, the Archbishop, to convent Atkinson before me and to take order for his appearance before your Lordships, which is done accordingly. He is to appear at the court before you the 18<sup>th</sup> day of this month, most humbly praying your good Lordships that the presumptuous & bold attempts of this Atkinson to the derogation of the authority here established may receive such punishment as your Honours' wisdoms shall think most fit for th' advancement of the credit and authority of this Council & of the Justices in the Liberty of Ripon, and to the example of any such busy contemptuous person that shall attempt the like hereafter.

And so with our duties most humbly remembered we take our leaves of your good Lordships at York this 10<sup>th</sup> of July 1596.

Your good Lordships' most humbly at commandments,

Matthew Ebor [=Matthew Hutton, Archbishop of York]

William Mallory

William Boxe

William Cardinal

Edward Stanhope

John Ferne

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LM: To the Lords of the Council

Endorsed: To the right honourable our very good Lords, the Lords of her Majesty's most honourable Privy Council

Endorsed: July 1596

Endorsed: W. Ce( (in a later hand?)

Endorsed: The Lord Archbishop & Council at York to the Lords concerning Atkinson

Endorsed: (in another hand) Corn, wine, stir sedition, promoter, caterpillar, £90,000

Endorsed: (in same hand as previous?) Earl of Oxford not to be touched

Endorsed: (in same hand as previous?) Atkinson submitteth(?), accuseth Elson [=Elston?] and Cawley