

PREM 19/1336

Part 11

Confidential Filing

Legislative Programme.

PARLIAMENT

Part I: May 1979

Part II: July 1983

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
1.7.83		11.11.83					
6.7.83		15.11.83					
27.7.83		18.11.83					
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PART 11 ends:-

SS/DT1 to LPC 29.2.84.

PART 12 begins:-

CC(84) 8th 1.3.84.

TO BE RETAINED AS TOP ENCLOSURE

Cabinet / Cabinet Committee Documents

Reference	Date
C(84) 9	24/02/1984
C(84) 8	24/02/1984
QL(84) 3 rd Meeting, only item	16/02/1984
QL(84) 2 nd Meeting, only item	07/02/1984
QL(84) 4	03/02/1984
QL(84) 1 st Meeting, only item	24/01/1984
QL(84) 3	19/01/1984
QL(84) 2	19/01/1984
H(83) 20 th Meeting	01/11/1983
H(83) 39	27/10/1983
H(83) 19 th Meeting	25/10/1983
L(83) 102	19/10/1983
L(83) 15 th Meeting	19/10/1983
H(83) 36	19/10/1983
H(83) 16 th Meeting	19/07/1983
H(83) 29	13/07/1983
CC(83) 22 nd Meeting, item 4	07/07/1983

The documents listed above, which were enclosed on this file, have been removed and destroyed. Such documents are the responsibility of the Cabinet Office. When released they are available in the appropriate CAB (CABINET OFFICE) CLASSES

Signed J. Gray

Date 9/7/2013

PREM Records Team



JF5860

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

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PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

29 February 1984

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CH MC DL
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

JS
2/3

D. Willie

- will require if required

Thank you for your letter of 23 February telling me that QL had not been able to accept my bid for legislation to implement the results of the review of films policy which is to be the subject of a White Paper in a month's time. I note that the outcome will be put before Cabinet on Thursday and as I am dismayed at the conclusion on the Films Bill I shall take that opportunity to press strongly for its inclusion.

Norman

NORMAN TEBBIT

11 - MAR 1984

11 12 1 2 3 4
DK
5
6 7 6 5



Ref. A084/659

PRIME MINISTER

The Legislative Programme 1984-85
(C(84) 8)

BACKGROUND

FLAG A

The Lord President's memorandum (C(84) 8) contains the recommendations of the Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee (QL) for next Session's legislative programme. C(84) 9 contains a summary of all the Departmental bids.

FLAG B

2. QL considered a total of 74 bids and are proposing a programme of 5 essential, 16 programme, 10 uncontroversial and 11 contingent Bills (their proposals are summarised in Annexes A, B and C of C(84) 8). This compares with 7 essential, 21 programme and 9 uncontroversial Bills for this Session, which is however longer than normal and for which a number of Bills (including 4 major ones) were already drafted, having fallen at the General Election.

3. The main Bills in the provisional programme are:

Local Government (Greater London and Metropolitan Counties)
- to abolish these authorities.

Social Security and Health - to make changes in private pensions arrangements.

Representation of the People - to bring into force the changes in electoral law proposed in the recent White Paper.

Administration of Justice - includes changes in the law on conveyancing.

A privatisation measure - either Public Transport or Gas.

Plus other substantial measures to establish an independent prosecution service, to amend the law on insolvency following the Cork report and to strengthen nationalised industries legislation.



4. The list of contingent Bills includes, under the innocuous title of "Communications" provision for a Bill on interception of communications, on the assumption that an adverse judgment by the European Court of Human Rights in the Malone case will oblige the Government to legislate on this subject.

5. QL discussed its provisional recommendations with Departmental Ministers and its conclusions are likely to be acceptable, except that some Ministers will argue for additions, notably:

The Secretary of State for the Environment - for a Rent Bill to introduce an element of deregulation into the private rented sector.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland - for a Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill to give effect to the recommendations of the Baker Report on security in Northern Ireland.

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry - for a Firms Bill to provide a new regime for the film industry and replace the Eady Levy.

The Secretary of State for Transport - for a long Civil Aviation Bill to privatise airports as well as for his Public Transport Bill to privatise the National Bus Company.

HANDLING

6. You will wish to invite the Lord President to introduce C(84) 8. You may then wish to ask the Lord Privy Seal if he has anything to add from the point of view of Commons business next Session.

Size of Programme

7. The first point to establish is the size of the programme. The Committee have recommended 21 essential and programme Bills with a further 10 uncontroversial Bills suitable for Second Reading Committee procedure. Does Cabinet agree that this is about the right number, bearing in mind the 11 contingent Bills, several of which will inevitably be required? It is very likely

85-86.



that a few other Bills, as yet unforeseen, will be needed as well. If Cabinet accepts that the programme is about right, it follows that any additions will need to be balanced by equivalent deletions.

Essential and Programme Bills

8. On substance, the Cabinet might first deal with the most important part of the proposals - the Essential and Programme Bills at Annex A of C(84) 8.

9. QL has remitted one specific issue to the Cabinet: the content of privatisation legislation. QL concluded that there was only room in the programme for one privatisation measure. They have suggested either Gas or Public Transport (ie buses). They favour the former on political grounds but the latter on practical grounds because it is more likely to be ready in time. The Lord President might explain QL's thinking, and the Secretaries of State for Energy and Transport be invited to speak to their Bills. On the assumption that there is room for only one of these Bills, the issue is whether the risk of backing the politically more attractive option - Gas - with the attendant danger that the Bill will appear later and half-baked, or even possibly not at all - is worth taking. There may be pressure to include both Bills and the Secretary of State for Transport may well argue for Civil Aviation (airports) in addition; the Lord President will wish to respond to this.

10. On the remainder of this part of the programme, the Secretaries of State for the Environment, Northern Ireland and Trade and Industry will wish to make their cases for Rent, Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) and Films respectively. The most difficult of these is Rent. Though there is no agreed policy as yet, the Secretaries of State for the Environment and Wales feel strongly that there must be legislation next Session so that it can "bed in" before the General Election (the Secretary of State for the Environment has given notice that he will be urging this line in his letter of 27 February to the Lord President). QL did not accept this timing point, were concerned that legislation next Session would be half-baked, and

FLAG C



also thought it best that the Department of the Environment should not be distracted from the crucial Abolition Bill by another major measure.

11. If any extra bids are accepted what is to be left out? There are few candidates of sufficient size. Is the Social Security Bill going to be ready in time? Is Pollution (Protection of Food and the Marine Environment) too contentious at this point? Do Trustee Savings Banks or Nationalised Industries really have to be next Session?

12. In the light of decisions up to this point Cabinet might like to review briefly the political impact of the emerging programme.

Uncontroversial and Contingent Bills (Annexes B and C of C(84) 8)

13. These Bills should not give rise to much discussion. The uncontroversial Bills are included on the basis that they will be suitable for Second Reading Committee procedure in the House of Commons, and will have a lower drafting priority. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary may argue that his State Immunity Act (Amendment) Bill (to prevent the attachment of United Kingdom bank accounts of diplomatic missions) should be included in the main programme category; the Secretary of State for Transport may argue for the addition of his Transport Goods Vehicle '0' Licensing Bill. QL took the view that 10 uncontroversial Bills was enough.

1985-86

14. In his memorandum, the Lord President suggests that further attention should be paid now to the 1985-86 Session. He suggests that a firm place in that Session's programme should be given now to a small number of large Bills which cannot be fitted into 1984-85. The advantage would be to enable more thorough preparation. Possibilities would be those privatisation measures not included in next Session, Rents or Films. You might ask the Lord President for his views in the light of the discussion.



CONCLUSION

15. You will wish the Cabinet to agree on:

1. The overall size of the programme;
2. The content of the essential, programme, contingent and uncontroversial sections - Annexes A, B and C of C(84) 8 as amended in discussion, and including in particular whether the privatisation measure should be Gas or Public Transport;
3. Whether some Bills should be given a place now in the 1985-86 programme; and if so which.

16. You will also wish to guide the Cabinet to note the importance of maintaining or improving on the timetables notified in C(84) 9 and to agree that QL Committee should review the position of any Bill which fails to meet its timetable.

approved by ROBERT ARMSTRONG
and signed in his absence.

Lindsay Wilkinson

29 February 1984

PRIME MINISTERLEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1984-85Privatisation Bills

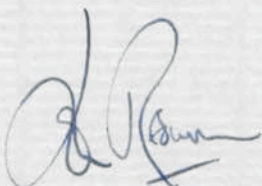
There have been some developments. Nicholas Ridley is now going to argue that both Public Transport and Civil Aviation can be handled in the Same Bill. The Treasury are going to strengthen their argument for the Nationalised Industries Bill by pointing out that it enables subsidiaries and assets to be sold off from public enterprises without additional legislation. Meanwhile, Peter Walker's proposals on gas do not look very attractive as they stand at the moment.

The ideal solution would be to accept Nicholas Ridley's offer of a single Bill, and to include a slot for a Gas Bill as well. This would avoid disappointing Peter Walker, although there would need to be some rubric about timely completion of the policy work on gas so that there was a chance of getting Instructions to Counsel in good time. If there has to be a decision between these measures, the United Transport Bill seems more important than Gas, given the policy difficulties over the latter.

Private Rented Housing

At Cabinet, DoE will be arguing that they can handle a Housing Bill as well as the necessary local government measures. Ian Gow would see the legislation through, and he and his team of civil servants will not be utilised in any way on the local government legislation.

This still seems a desirable measure if the Government wishes to do anything about the deplorable state of the private rented housing market that might work within the lifetime of this Parliament. The policy work is quite well advanced - as you saw with Patrick Jenkin's paper to H - whilst there is a pressing problem of under-utilised houses on one side and homelessness on the other. At the 16 December Meeting of Ministers, it was agreed to press ahead with this topic.

JOHN REDWOOD

CONFIDENTIAL



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw
CH MC
Lord President of the Council
68 Whitehall
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SW1A 2AZ

[Handwritten signature]
29/2

29 February 1984

[Handwritten signature]

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1984-85: NORTHERN IRELAND BILLS

Thank you for your letter of 23 February.

I was glad to note that QL Committee remains of the view that an Elections (Northern Ireland) Bill should be in the 1984-85 Legislative programme. As you know, I attach great importance to this Bill.

I was naturally disappointed by what you say about a Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill. Whilst I accept that until we have reached decisions on the Baker Report there must be some uncertainty about its scope, I do not believe that the Bill would take a very long time to prepare. I remain of the view that the Government will be exposed to considerable criticism for failing to act on the Baker Report until 1985-86 by which time I am sure that this legislation would become essential; my position would be contrasted sharply with that of the Home Office, which legislated so quickly following the Jellicoe Report on the Prevention of Terrorism Act. You also said that legislation emerging from the review of measures to combat terrorism which the Cabinet commissioned following the Harrods bombing would need to be UK-wide and could not therefore readily be incorporated in a Northern Ireland Bill. I accept of course that such legislation might need to cover the whole country. But I had in mind the possibility that, since it is in Northern Ireland that the greatest mischief lies, and since the measures would be closely associated with the current Emergency Provisions, there would be

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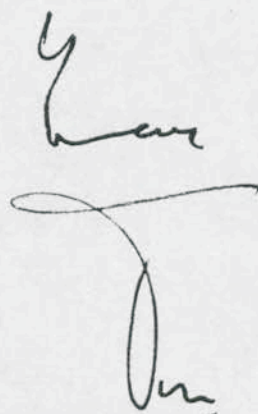
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CONFIDENTIAL

a case for implementing them in respect of the Province in an Emergency Provisions Bill which could be matched in respect of Great Britain when a suitable opportunity arose. It is also the case that the part of the Prevention of Terrorism Act which applies only to Great Britain provides better safeguards than does the Northern Ireland legislation, so in this respect we would be bringing Northern Ireland into line with the rest of the country.

At Cabinet on 1 March I will wish to refer to points of this kind and to reserve my position on whether to seek space for a Bill nearer the time should pressures for legislation on the Baker Report become unacceptable or should measures emerging from Cabinet's review merit early implementation for the Province.

I am copying this letter to members of the Cabinet and Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'G. H. ...' with a large flourish at the end.

fam legionⁿ P+11



29 FEB 1964

Telephone
01-212 3751

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
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SW1P 3EB



*With the Compliments of the
Secretary of State for Transport*

21

PSO/2092



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
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The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CH MC
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
68 Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2AT

Dr
27/2

Dear Willie

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1984-85

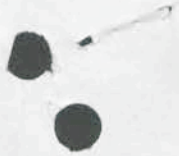
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Thank you for your letter of 23 February.

I note that QL have only accepted my short essential Civil Aviation Bill and one of my uncontroversial Bills. I am disappointed that you have not felt able to go further on my bids for Programme Bills. You will not be surprised to learn that I shall feel bound to argue in Cabinet the case for many more privatisation Bills, including buses and airports which I have confirmed can both be ready for early introduction.

Nicholas Ridley

NICHOLAS RIDLEY



29 FEB 1984



870
 Prime Minister:

Mr Jenkin gives notice
 of his intention of raising his
 Rent Bill in Cabinet, on the grounds
 that Ian Gow, who will run the Bill
 will not be involved in the Govt + MCE
 Bill

2 MARSHAM STREET
 LONDON SW1P 3EB
 01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

27 February 1984

Dear Willie,

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1984/5

Thank you for your letter of 23 February informing me of the recommendations on my bids for the 1984/5 legislative programme that QL will be making to the Cabinet.

As you know from the arguments that I put forward at the second meeting of QL, I feel very strongly that the 1984/5 programme should include a major Rent Bill, which would deregulate new lettings and, subject to the Chancellor's agreement, marginally extend the assured tenancies approach to former public sector property. I am sorry that it was not possible to include all these proposals in our original bid for the 1984/5 programme. However, the policy is now much more developed and I am arranging for a paper for H Committee to be circulated today for discussion early next month.

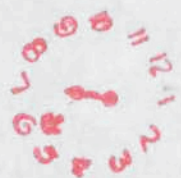
As you say, the opposition are almost certain to commit themselves to the repeal of these changes. It is precisely because of this that I believe we need to legislate early this session, so as to give as long as possible before the next election for the real effects to show through.

I agree that the Abolition Bill and the 2 essential Bills will impose a major load on my Department. However, Ian Gow would carry the main load arising from the Rent Bill, and he and the officials concerned will not be significantly involved in the other legislation. Inclusion of the Bill would, therefore, not have any effect on the timetable for the Abolition Bill.

I shall be arguing for inclusion of the Rent Bill in the 1984/5 legislative programme at the Cabinet's discussion of QL's recommendations, and am therefore copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Cabinet colleagues and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever
 Patrick

PATRICK JENKIN



2
1
1984

CONFIDENTIAL

POLICY UNIT
24 February 1984

PRIME MINISTER

THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME

The Legislative Programme for 1984/85, the first full year of the new Parliament, should aim to tackle the more contentious parts of the programme laid out in the Manifesto. It should also take those measures where time is needed to transmute law code into working action on the ground before an election disrupts the process. 24/2

The debates in QL have produced some improvement in what at the beginning was a tired, unexciting and damaging programme. It is right to take the Local Government measures, to include a Social Security and Health Bill which enables the family practitioner controls and pensions reform to begin to bite, to deal with Representation of the People measures, to have a Bill which enables the pledges on solicitors to be honoured.

The most notable omissions in the programme as now set out lie in the fields of privatisation and the creation of more effective markets. In privatisation Cabinet could press for Civil Aviation as well as Public Transport: Nicholas Ridley is well advanced with his measures on the bus industry and says he could introduce both Bills within the tight timetable of the 1984/85 session. He should be supported.

In the energy field, gas is only in as an alternative. Whilst there are still delays in settling the policy on both gas and electricity it would be folly not to include legislative time for at least the first steps in the difficult task of denationalising parts of the energy industries. Peter Walker will be upset after preparing his paper if nothing can happen.

In the difficult task of making markets work, the most obvious omission is legislation to deal with the problems in the private rented sector housing market. Better labour mobility requires an easier system of new lets for tenants. Patrick Jenkin has come up with some good proposals and should be supported.

/In order to

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CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

In order to accommodate these additions to the programme there need to be reductions. Scotland at the moment has four long or medium Bills which would take up too much legislative time. In order not to upset George Younger too much, the neatest way of reducing Scotland to three Bills would be to suggest deferring for a year both the English and the Scottish measures on Insolvency and Bankruptcy. Two long Bills would then pass out of the programme and in the process DTI would be relieved of the difficulty of piloting through one long Bill in a year when they have enormous tasks ahead in sorting out their industries. Could Norman Tebbit be persuaded of the wisdom of this?

If you did not wish to drop the bankruptcy measures then it would be necessary to drop two of the other Scottish measures (Heritage, Family Law and Law Reform). None of them are vital.

If Civil Aviation is accepted as a Bill then the short Civil Aviation Bill in the essential category is no longer necessary. In the uncontroversial category several of the measures could be removed. It would make sense to take out the longer ones - Enduring Power of Attorney and Merchant Shipping. Nicholas Ridley might agree if he gets both his privatisation measures in.

The result of all this would be to reduce the number of Bills (Total -2), whilst improving the quality of the programme. It would have more controversial measures and therefore more political cutting edge. It is right to take controversy at the beginning of the Parliament and it would also help to counter allegations of drift. If there are too many uncontroversial and tired looking Bills in the programme the Press will redouble its criticism.

In the uncontroversial category, if you wish to reduce numbers you could also remove the English Industrial Estates Corporation, Land Registry and Law of Property Amendment, Foreign Compensation and OpenCast Coal Planning (Total -6). These are all short Bills. There is a case for removing these to leave more flexibility. Later in the year some additional measures may be needed as a result of policy work under way at various Departments: if short Bills were needed they could then be accommodated. For example, contracting out in local government may need legislation, and the pollution policy

/initiative

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initiative might uncover small legislative gaps which need plugging. The argument against is that it might upset the Lord Chancellor and Foreign Secretary for little extra Parliamentary time gained. The attached chart summarises these proposals.



JOHN REDWOOD

PROGRAMME BILLS (16 RECOMMENDED BY QL)Necessary:Total

Local Government	(DoE)	
Social Security and Health	(DHSS)	
Representation of the People	(Home Office)	
Brunei	(FCO)	
Administration of Justice (Solicitors)	(Lord Chancellor)	
Elections (Northern Ireland)	(NIO)	
Nationalised Industries	(Treasury)	
Public Transport) Presented as a	(D/Transport)	
Gas) choice, both	(D/Energy)	
	needed.	

Not included but necessary:

Civil Aviation (long)	(D/Transport)	
Private Rented Housing	(DoE)	11

Debatable:

Prosecutions	(Home Office 2nd Bill)	
Pollution (Good but not based on a full pollution policy review)	(Agriculture)	
Trustee Savings Banks	(Treasury 2nd Choice Bill)	3

Could be sacrificed:

Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Scotland) - Policy questionable and not urgent.	(DTI)	
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or

Two of Heritage, Family Law, Law Reform (Scotland)		5
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UNCONTROVERSIAL BILLSBest to sacrifice:

Merchant Shipping	(Transport)	
Enduring Power of Attorney	(Lord Chancellor)	

Could also postpone to another year:

Open Cast Coal (Planning)	(Energy)	
Foreign Compensation	(FCO)	
Land Registry and Law of Property	(Lord Chancellor)	
English Industrial Estates Corporation	(DTI)	



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

22 February 1984

Dear Patrick,

JTB 22/2

As you know I felt that there was insufficient business to justify holding a Legislation Committee meeting this week, and we therefore need to deal by correspondence with your proposals in memorandum L(84) 13 about the handling of the Recreational Gardening Bill which Lord Wallace of Coslany introduced on 30 January. I understand that it is listed for Second Reading debate in the Lords this Friday, although it is uncertain whether it will be reached.

You explained in your memorandum that the Bill would impose a number of specific duties on local authorities and on Central Government, such as the formal registration of people who wished to rent allotments and the acquisition of sufficient land to satisfy demand, and the publication of annual statistics and waiting lists, respectively. I agree with you that this is not a good time to impose further duties on local authorities, and that in any case the management of allotments is best left to local discretion. I see from John Belstead's letter of 20 February to you that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food take very much the same view. I also understand that Willie Whitelaw and Bertie Denham are content with your proposal that at Second Reading in the Lords the Government should indicate that it cannot support any form of Recreational Gardening Bill at this stage; and that if the Bill nevertheless reaches the Commons it should be blocked. I am therefore content to give L Committee's agreement to your proposals.

I am copying this letter to other members of L Committee, John Belstead, Sir Robert Armstrong and other recipients of memorandum L(84) 13.

JOHN BIFFEN

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
Secretary of State for the Environment



CABINET OFFICE

From the Minister of State

Lord Gowrie

MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL OFFICE

Great George Street

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Telephone 01-233 8610

The Rt Hon John Biffen MP

Lord Privy Seal

68 Whitehall

London SW1

21 February 1984

DB
23/2

Dear John,

UPDATING OF SCHEDULE 1 TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DISQUALIFICATION ACT 1975

Schedule 1 to the above Act lists the offices whose holders are disqualified for membership of the House of Commons. The Schedule was last updated in April 1983. Since then discussions at official level have brought to light a further 19 amendments and another Commons Resolution and an Order in Council under Section 5(1) of the 1975 Act therefore seem desirable to bring the legislation up to date. We should like to be in a position to put a Resolution and amending Order before Parliament early in April, in time for the amendments to appear in the routine reprint of the Act which will be issued before the elections for the European Assembly in June (Officers disqualified under the 1975 Act are also disqualified for the Assembly).

The question of which offices disqualify for membership of the Commons is a matter for the 'sponsor' Minister, but MPO are responsible for the maintenance of the Act and Barney Hayhoe, as spokesman on the Civil Service matters in the Commons, will be seeing the Order through the House. My purpose in writing to you and other colleagues is therefore:

(a) to seek agreement generally to update the Schedule to the Act in the coming Session;

(b) that, subject to any comments from colleagues, we should proceed with the drafting of the necessary Order in Council and Resolution, and may instruct Parliamentary Counsel for that purpose;

(c) to seek confirmation from the Ministers concerned that the amendments proposed by their Departments are necessary and that making these amendments would not affect the position of any sitting MP or MEP and that none of the holders of offices to be brought into the Schedule is a prospective candidate for the European Assembly;

(d) to seek confirmation from other Ministers that they have no amendments, additions or deletions that they wish to see made.

The administrative criteria which are normally applied in deciding whether an office should disqualify are:

(a) Paid offices in the gift of the Crown or Ministers (to prevent 'trivial' disqualifications a de minimis salary level of £4,000 has been adopted).

(b) Certain positions of control in companies in receipt of Government grants and funds to which Ministers usually, though not necessarily, make nominations.

(c) Offices imposing duties which, with regard to time and place, would prevent their holders from fulfilling Parliamentary duties satisfactorily, i.e. they would take up too much time or otherwise prevent an MP from attending Parliament.

(d) Offices whose holders are required to be, or to be seen to be, politically impartial.

We also undertook during the February 1982 debate to ensure that in future each proposed amendment is supported by an explanatory note on the origin and effect of the amendment so that the House knows what it is voting on. The material I am now circulating includes draft explanatory notes for each amendment, I should be grateful for any comments that sponsor Ministers may have.

You will remember that I also undertook to publish a factual paper on the review of disqualification carried out in 1982. I suggest that it would be appropriate to publish this paper at the same time as the Resolution and explanatory note are laid before the House, when it will provide additional background information. Inevitably, whenever we publish, this paper will create an interest in and pressure for wider reform of disqualification.

I am copying this letter to all members of Cabinet.

*Y
Lons,
t/ny*

PROOF COPY

PART II - BODIES OF WHICH ALL MEMBERS ARE DISQUALIFIED

Entries to be deleted

1. Entry to be deleted: A Value Added Tax Tribunal

An entry referring only to the President, Vice President and full-time Chairmen of a VAT Tribunal, is proposed for addition to Part III (See No 6). It is suggested that part-time Chairmen and members could be released from disqualification as the time spent sitting on Tribunals is not such that it would prevent them from also serving as Members of Parliament. They are paid between £63 - £109 per day but do not in practice receive more than £500 pa.

7 part-time Chairmen and 118 part-time members will be released from disqualification.

Sponsored by HM Customs and Excise.

PROOF COPY

PART III - OTHER DISQUALIFYING OFFICES

Additional entries

2. New entry: Advocate Depute (not being the Solicitor General for Scotland) appointed by the Lord Advocate

The office-holders are Senior or Junior Counsel appointed from the Scottish Bar by the Lord Advocate and are paid £18,100 pa. They hold a Commission from the Lord Advocate to prosecute on his behalf in criminal cases in the High Court of Justiciary and in important cases in the Sheriff Courts.

Over the years the work of Advocates Depute has considerably increased and office-holders would be unable to carry out the duties of a Member of Parliament. There is also the need for the office-holders to be seen to be politically impartial.

There are currently 12 office-holders who will come into the Schedule. They are not appointed ad hoc in relation to any case, but remain Advocates Depute until such time as they resign or are removed from office, cases being assigned to them on an administrative basis.

Sponsored by the Lord Advocates' Departments.

3. New entry: Chairman or Chief Executive of the Simplification of International Trade Procedures Board

The Chairman is appointed by a Minister and is paid expenses only. He appoints the Chief Executive who is paid £26,000 pa.

The body was set up by administrative action in 1970 and is funded from the British Overseas Trade Board's grant-in-aid.

The proposed new entry will bring two office-holders into the Schedule.

Sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry.

4. New entry: Chairman of any of the Post Office Users' Councils established under section 14 of the Post Office Act 1969

The existing entry which disqualifys Chairman of the Post Office Users' National Council is suggested for deletion from the Schedule (see No 9). This proposed new entry includes the Chairman of the National Council and, for the first time, Chairmen of the Country Councils for Scotland, Wales and Monmouthshire, and Northern Ireland.

The office-holders are appointed by a Minister and are paid £33 per day. They should be seen to be politically impartial.

The proposed new entry will bring 3 office-holders into the Schedule.

Sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry.

PROOF COPY

5. New entry: **Controller of Audit appointed under Section 97(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973**

The **Commission for Local Authority Accounts in Scotland** appoints the office-holder after consultation with, and subject to the approval of, the Secretary of State. All members of the Commission are themselves disqualified under Part II of Schedule I.

The office-holder needs to be seen to be politically impartial. He is paid £25-£30,000 pa by the Commission which is itself supported by a levy on local authorities (93 per cent) and grant in aid from central government (7 per cent), principally the Scottish Office.

The office was established in 1973 but the need to disqualify has only recently been recognised.

Sponsored by the Scottish Office.

6. New entry: **President, Vice President and full-time Chairman of a Value Added Tax Tribunal**

The existing entry referring to all members of the body is suggested for deletion from Part II of the Schedule. This proposed new entry does not include part-time Chairmen and members as it is thought that the time they spend sitting on Tribunals is not such that it would prevent them from also serving as Members of Parliament (see No 1).

The office-holders covered by the proposed new entry are appointed by the Lord Chancellor and are paid between £24,000 - £30,000 pa.

Sponsored by HM Customs and Excise.

7. New entry: **Director of Britoil plc nominated by a Minister of the Crown or Government Department**

The Government Directors of Britoil plc are appointed by the Treasury under the company's Articles of Association. They are paid by Britoil (in the same way as the company's other non-executive directors). There is a need for them to be seen to be politically impartial.

The proposed new entry will bring two office-holders into the Schedule.

Sponsored by the Treasury.

PROOF COPY

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Entries to be deleted

8. Entry to be deleted: **Chairman of any of the National Boards constituted under the Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Act 1979, if appointed by the Secretary of State under Section 5(8)(a) of that Act.**

From September 1983 the office-holders are not appointed by a Minister. This follows the Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Act 1979 (Membership of National Boards) Order 1982 (SI 1982/962).

4 office-holders are removed from Schedule 1.

Sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Security, Welsh Office, Scottish Home and Health Department and Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland.

9. Entry to be deleted: **Chairman of the Post Office Users' National Council**

The proposed deletion is to make way for the addition of a new generic entry which will also include Chairmen of Country Councils for Scotland, Wales and Monmouthshire and Northern Ireland (See No 4).

Sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry.

10. Entry to be deleted: **Director of the Scottish Agricultural Securities Corporation plc nominated by a Minister of the Crown or government department**

The Government's right to nominate a Director of the Company lapsed in February 1983 upon the completion of debt repayment. The last Director nominated by the Government resigned his post during 1983.

Sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland.

11. Entry to be deleted: **Distributor of Stamps appointed by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for the Stock Exchange at Glasgow**

The business conducted by the office-holder on behalf of the Inland Revenue is now minimal. Moreover, the business is delegated and he does not personally benefit from the very small commission paid by the department.

The proposed deletion will remove one office-holder from the Schedule.

Sponsored by the Inland Revenue.

PROOF COPY

12. Amend the entry: **Chairman of the Distinction and Meritorious Service Committee for Northern Ireland**
- to read: **Chairman of the Distinction and Meritorious Service Awards Committee for Northern Ireland**

The body's title was incorrectly shown when the 1983 amending Order was made.

Ministers are involved in the appointment of the office-holder who is paid.

Sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland.

13. Amend the entry: **Paid Chairman of a Health Board constituted under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1972**
- to read: **Paid Chairman of a Health Board constituted under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978**

The earlier legislation has been superceded by the 1978 Act.

There are 15 Chairmen who are appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland and receive an honorarium of between £2530-£9628 pa.

Sponsored by the Scottish Home and Health Department.

14. Amend the entry: **Chairman of the Management Committee of the Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service**
- to read: **Chairman of the Management Committee of the Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service constituted under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978**

The Chairman is appointed by the Secretary of State and is paid £5225 pa. Reference to the legislation in the entry is proposed for additional clarity and to conform with other similar entries.

Sponsored by the Scottish Home and Health Department.

15. Amend the entry: **Director of ICL Public Limited Company nominated or appointed by a Minister of the Crown or government department**
- to read: **Director of ICL Public Limited Company nominated by a Minister of the Crown or government department**

Since 1981 the Department of Trade and Industry has not had the right to appoint a director though it retains the right to be consulted about appointments and to nominate candidates for consideration. At present there is no Departmental nominee on the Board.

Sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry.

PROOF COPY

16. Amend the entry: Member of an Agricultural Marketing Board appointed under Section 3 of the Agricultural Marketing Act (Northern Ireland) 1964

to read: Member of an Agricultural Marketing Board appointed under Section 3 of the Agricultural Marketing Act (Northern Ireland) 1964 or Schedule 2 to the Agricultural Marketing (Northern Ireland) Order 1982

The office-holders are appointed by a Minister and are paid from producers funds. They should be seen to be politically impartial.

The amendment is necessary because the 1964 Act, which will eventually be replaced entirely by the 1982 Order, still applies to two of the Marketing Boards. Both the 1964 Act and the 1982 Order will continue to apply until certain transitional steps are completed.

There are no additional office-holders brought into Schedule I.

Sponsored by the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland.

17. Entry to be deleted: Registration Officer appointed under Section 6(3) of the Representation of the People Act 1949

18. Amend the entry: Registration Officer appointed under Section 8(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983

to read: Registration Officer appointed under Section 8(2) or (3) of the Representation of the People Act 1983

The entry to be deleted covers Registration Officers in Scotland. The 1949 legislation has now been repealed and the office-holders are appointed under the 1983 Act only. The single proposed entry covers Registration Officers in England, Wales and Scotland.

The office-holders are engaged in the electoral process and should be seen to be politically impartial.

There are no additional office-holders brought into the Schedule.

Sponsored by the Home Office and Scottish Home and Health Department.

PROOF COPY

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PART IV - OFFICES DISQUALIFYING FOR PARTICULAR CONSTITUANCES

19. Amend the entry: Her Majesty's Commissioner of Lieutenancy in the City of London The Cities of London and Westminster
- to read: Her Majesty's Commissioner of Lieutenancy in the City of London The City of London and Westminster South

The constituency which includes the City of London has been renamed.

Sponsored by the Home Office.

PROOF COPY



25 JAN 1984



file

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MR. REDWOOD

The Prime Minister has noted the discussion in QL Committee finalising its recommendations to Cabinet on next year's legislative programme. She has also noted the points made by the Policy Unit in their various minutes about the programme. She would be grateful if the Policy Unit could provide a brief on the Cabinet paper on the legislative programme for 1984/85 when it is circulated for discussion in Cabinet on 1 March.

T. FLEENER

21 February 1984

PRIME MINISTER

THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME

At its final meeting before making its recommendations to Cabinet, QL (minutes attached) discussed the main outstanding issues.

On privatisation there was strong political pressure to include gas privatisation in the programme but resistance on the grounds that policy was still vague and there was no guarantee that the Bill would be ready for introduction before January 1985. The Committee was clearly split between the inclusion of gas and public transport and agreed to offer Cabinet the choice.

The other major debate in the Committee was on the proposal of the Secretary of State for the Environment to transform his Assured Tenants Bill into a Rent Bill to introduce an element of deregulation into private rented housing. Mr. Jenkin is very much in favour of including this Bill in the next Session, but the Committee was sceptical that DOE could handle this Bill as well as the GLC and MCC Bill. I am sure that Patrick Jenkin will return to this in Cabinet.

The Policy Unit have a number of views on the legislative programme. In particular they think that it is over-weighted with relatively uncontroversial Bills, e.g. four Scottish Bills. They favour the Gas Privatisation Bill as well as the Public Transport Bill, rather than in its place. They also have considerable reservations about the Pollution Bill proposed by MAFF.

Agree that I should ask the Policy Unit to provide a brief for the Cabinet discussion of the legislative programme on 1 March?

Yes please mb

JA

20 February 1984

MR FLESHER15 February 1984LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME FOR 1984-85

QL is still only recommending one privatisation Bill in the draft programme it is considering tomorrow. It would be preferable if gas, public transport and civil aviation were all put through in the 1984-85 session. This would necessitate dropping two of the other Bills: the most obvious would be Law Reform (Miscellaneous provisions Scotland) and Family Law (Financial provisions Scotland). This would remove a substantial and medium Bill from the programme and still leave Scotland with two programme Bills, one medium and one long.

It would be desirable to have the Private Rented Housing Bill as any changes to make the private rented sector work would need several years before the disruption of a General Election to be given a fair chance. This could replace one of the two Treasury Bills in the programme.

The Pollution Bill proposed by Agriculture is still not an ideal Bill (see David Pascall's previous note on this subject). A general Bill on pollution would be desirable. Two medium Bills Enduring Power of Attorney and Transport Goods Vehicle 'O' Licensing could be dropped and would free more time even though they are uncontroversial.

JOHN REDWOOD

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

COMMONS PRIMARY

i. Awaiting Second Reading on the floor

Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill (L) Thursday 16 February

ii. Second Reading Committee

Earliest date
for referral
to Committee

Date of
Committee

Fosdyke Bridge (L) (Hybrid) 13 February Wed 22 February

Somerset House (L) 13 February Wed 29 February

Foreign Limitation Periods (L)

iii. Standing Committee

Start Date

Police and Criminal Evidence 17 November

Trade Union 22 November

London Regional Transport 17 January

Rating and Valuation (Amendment) (Scotland) 17 January

Health and Social Security 24 January

Ordnance Factories and Military Services 26 January

Rates 26 January

Data Protection 7 February

Co-operative Development Agency and Industrial Development 14 February

iv. Awaiting Committee on the Floor

v. Awaiting Report and Third Reading

Merchant Shipping (L)

Occupiers Liability (L) Mon 20 February

COMMONS SECONDARY LEGISLATION

1) Affirmative Orders laid

Title	Date Required By	Opposition approached re referral to Committee	Date of debate Floor/Committee
Medicines (Cyanogenetic Substances) Order 1983			Wed 8 February Committee 1
Grants to Redundant Churches Fund Order 1984			Wed 8 February Committee 1
Aberdeen and District Milk Marketing Scheme (Application to Banff) Revocation Order 1984		Approach deferred pending laying of associated order.	
Local Loans (Increase of Limit) Order 1984			Wed 15 February Committee
Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income)(Sweden) Order 1984			Floor ?
Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (Luxembourg) Order 1984			Floor?
Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income (New Zealand) Order 1984			Floor
Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (Falkland Islands) Order 1984			Floor
Agricultural (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1984			
Air Navigation (Noise Certification) Order 1984			Floor
Public Records (Commission for the New Towns) Order 1984			Floor?
Public Records (British Railways Board) Order 1984			Floor?
Supplementary Benefit (Requirements)Amendment Regulations 1984 2			Tues 14 February Floor
Motor Vehicles (Variation of Speed Limits) Regulations 1984			Floor
Carriage by Air Acts (Application of Provisions)(Overseas Territories)(Amendment)Order 1984			

1. Awaiting referral to the floor

2. To be associated with 4 prayers, see EDMs 459,460,476 and 477.

COMMONS SECONDARY LEGISLATION

ii. NEGATIVE
Annulment

EDM	Title	Party praying	Expiry of praying time	Date for debate Ctte/ Floor
439	Motor Vehicles (Dim-Dip Lighting Devices) Regulations 1983 (S.I. 1983 No.1859)	Lib	18 Feb	
441	Scented Erasers (Safety) Order 1984 (S.I. 1984, No. 83)	Con	18 Feb	
459	Housing Benefits Amendment Regulations 1984	Lab	16 Mar	Tues 14 February Floor
460	Housing Benefits Amendment (No.2) Regulations 1984	Lab	16 Mar	Tues 14 February Floor
476	Local Government (S.I. 1984, No.110)	Lab	18 Mar	Tues 14 February Floor
477	Local Government (S.I. 1984, No. 111)	Lab	18 Mar	Tues 14 February Floor

Revocation

-

LORDS PRIMARY

Agricultural Holdings (L)
Animal Health and Welfare (L)
Cable and Broadcasting (L)
County Courts (L)
Education (Grants and Awards)
Foster Children (Scotland) (L)
Housing and Building Control
Inshore Fishing (Scotland) (L)
Mental Health (Scotland) (L)
Prevention of Terrorism
Registered Homes (L)
Repatriation of Prisoners (L)
Roads (Scotland) (L)
Telecommunications
Tenants' Rights, Etc. (Scotland) (Amendment)
Town and Country Planning

Third Readings planned for week beginning Monday 13 February 1984

Tourism (Overseas Promotion) (Scotland) (L) 13 February

Third Readings planned for week beginning Monday 20 February 1984

-

GOVERNMENT PRIMARY LEGISLATION

1. Awaiting Royal Assent

TITLE

Restrictive Trade Practices (Stock Exchange)

DATE

Agreed to by Lords 26/1/84

11. Received Royal Assent

TITLE

Car Tax (Lords)

Companies (Beneficial Interests)

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation)

Finance

International Monetary Arrangements

Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers)

Medical

Value Added Tax

Oil Taxation

British Shipbuilders (Borrowing Powers)

Coal Industry

Consolidated Fund

Petroleum Royalties (Relief)

DATE

26/7/83

26/7/83

26/7/83

26/7/83

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1/12/83

21/12/83

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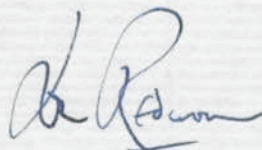
E. R.
CONFIDENTIAL

6 February 1984

MR FLESHER *R*

QL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME

The revised programme is better in that gas privatisation and public transport have been introduced into the list as necessary for the privatisation programme, whilst Bills of little importance like Merchant Shipping and Films and Salmon Fisheries, Scotland, are now excluded from the programme. The one notable omission now is that of a Housing Bill. If the Government wishes to do anything about creating a better private rented sector market, it would be vital to put forward legislation for the 1984/5 session. Delay to 1985/6 would leave very little time for the new Law to come into effect before an Election would cast its shadow over the longevity of the arrangements.



JOHN REDWOOD

CONFIDENTIAL

THE CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCYandINDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BILL

Second Reading
House of Commons
Tuesday 7th February 1984

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The Bill has two parts:

The Co-Operative Development Agency (CDA)

THE BILL - Part I is concerned with the future of the Co-operative Development Agency. It will raise from £1.5 million to £3 million the cumulative amount of grants which the Secretary of State for Trade & Industry may make available to the Agency. The Bill does not specify the annual rate of grant, but the Government intends to continue it at the current level of £200,000 per annum for the next six years.

The Bill also widens the powers of the Agency, principally by allowing it to make grants or loans for the establishment or development of co-operatives. The Agency will not, however, be allowed to use grants from the Department of Trade & Industry or loans for this purpose, but it will be possible for the European Social Fund or other organisations to provide money for it.

The Bill extends the Agency's powers to provide training courses for those involved in the co-operative movement, and removes the current prohibition on its engaging in commercial activities or forming partnerships.

The Secretary of State will be empowered to issue directions to the Agency about the exercise of its functions; and since the 1978 Act that established it made no provisions for winding it up, the Secretary of State will also be able, under this Bill, to dissolve it by Order. Any such order, however, will be subject to affirmative resolution in both houses.

Background of the CDA

The CDA was set up in September 1978 under the Co-operative Development Agency Act of that year. This followed the recommendations of a working group drawn from the Co-operative movement. Its basic purpose is to promote the principles and practices of the movement and to act as its representative body. Its Board consists of a chairman and five members, and it has twelve staff. The original Act allowed for public funding to the CDA of up to £1½ million. This has now been exhausted, which is why the present Bill is necessary. The CDA also receives about £100,000 per annum from industry - mainly in the form of secondments.

In 1983 there were estimated to be about 8000 co-operatives in this country, up from 500 in 1982. The largest single group is in retailing, where there are about 150 co-operatives, and the majority are in service trades. Co-operatives are generally acknowledged to be a different animal to other small business organisations and the CDA prides itself that it has developed the special skills necessary to advise and help them. This help is particularly important in their early years, when their initial funding is usually organised on a hand-to-mouth basis. Their founders often put up their redundancy pay and take out mortgages to help them get established, and growth is initially financed by self-generated funds. Later on co-operatives can usually gain access to more conventional sources of funds and advice.

Regional Industrial Development

THE BILL - Part II of the Bill provides for an amended scheme of Regional Development Grants, and follows the publication in December of the White Paper on 'Regional Industrial Development'. It does not, however, specify the rates of grant, the activities that will qualify for it or the boundaries of the Assisted Area map that will accompany the new scheme. These will be determined later by Order, following a period of public consultation on the White Paper which will last until 31st May.

The provisions of Part II of the Bill will put the RDG scheme on to a project basis. RDG will only be payable, under the new scheme, to projects which provide or modernise capacity. Simple replacement investment will no longer qualify. RDG will be calculated either as a proportion of capital expenditure, or according to the number of jobs created by it (which ever gives the better result). However it may be abated, and the Government intend to use this power to abate grants on capital expenditure so that a cost per job ceiling will be applied. This is in order to ensure that RDG is payable only to the extent that a project creates jobs. This abatement will not normally be applied to small firms.

The Bill also provides for the designation of Assisted Areas by reference to wards, the Travel-to-Work Areas of the Department of Employment or other areas for legislative purposes. This provision is made necessary by forthcoming changes in the way that Travel-to-Work Areas, by which Assisted Areas are now defined, are themselves put together. This is being revised and it is intended in future to define them by local authority wards rather than Employment Office Areas.

The Government intends to bring the new scheme into effect in Autumn 1984, and to make changes to qualifying activities, rates of grant and the map of Assisted Areas at the same time. This changeover will be accompanied by appropriate transitional arrangements. (Details of all these changes are given on P5 below).

Background to Regional Policy

The Government is pledged, by last year's election Manifesto, to maintain 'an effective regional policy' and to avoid 'sudden changes' in it. The Department of Trade & Industry is budgeted to spend £640 million this year on regional policy, and the total bill for all departments' regional spending will, according to the Public Expenditure White Paper, be over £1 billion. The Sunday Times estimated (20.2.83) that in total £20 billion has been spent over the years on aid for the regions. So regional policy is an expensive item in the Government's budget. The main problem with the policy has always been to make sure that it is, in practice, effective. Some of the reasons why the present policy (see appendix) is widely considered to be unsatisfactory are given below.

- a) It appears to have had 'little discernible impact upon the relative economic performance of the regions themselves. Unemployment at 1.6 per cent in Northern England and 15.4 per cent in the North West is still on an altogether higher plane than in the South East, where it stands at 9.2 per cent' (Financial Times, 18th October 1983).
- b) Regional policy had been unable to play any part in alleviating the problems of the West Midlands, the region where

unemployment has risen fastest during the recession. Indeed by directing investment towards other areas during the 1960s and 1970s regional policy probably aggravated the West Midland's difficulties.

- c) The current policy is based upon automatic entitlement to grants for capital expenditure and has tended to be biased towards capital intensive projects. Because of this the cost per job has been high - £35,000 according to the White Paper. The most often quoted example of a capital intensive project that received massive regional aid but created comparatively few jobs, is the Sullom Voe oil terminal for which BP and its partners received £93 million in regional development grants. Furthermore this project would have had to go ahead in the Shetlands anyway, whether or not it received public money (see below).
- d) It is thought that regional aid has created a disappointing number of new jobs, hence the very high estimate of the cost per job (see above). The White Paper gave a figure of 500,000 jobs since 1960.
- e) The problem of assessing the economic impact of regional policy, as opposed to its social effects, is made more difficult by the fact that many of the jobs 'created' by it are not new to the UK economy but have merely been shifted from areas that do not receive aid to those that do. A recent example of this was Lucas' plan to move production involving 3,000 jobs from the West Midlands to South Wales in order to take advantage of the grants offered in the assisted areas.
- f) Much of the investment that now qualifies for regional grants would have gone ahead in the same place anyway, such as the Sullom Voe terminal. It is argued by many that Government grants to projects like this are a waste of regional aid.
- g) Regional policy has not led to greater flexibility of labour costs, though many, as the Financial Times pointed out on 18th October 1983, regard this 'as the first condition of industrial renewal and employment growth'. Instead national wage bargaining has tended to impose uniform rates of pay etc, throughout the country. Government figures show, according to the Financial Times, that average male manual wages range from £134 a week in the South West to £151 a week in the prosperous South East. Manual wages in the depressed North, however, at an average of £143.60 a week are little different from those in the South East (excluding London) at £144.50. (All figures are as quoted in the Financial Times).
- h) Regional policy seems to run counter to the Government's stated intention of encouraging greater mobility of labour.
- i) Current regional policy gives only a tiny proportion of its available aid to the services. They do not qualify for regional development grants despite the fact that they offer the best hope for increased employment in the future.
- j) The traditional economic rationale of regional policy is that by directing new investment to the depressed regions it relieves the pressure on the infrastructure and labour market of the booming areas. But at a time when unemployment is high in all areas this argument is no longer relevant.

Advantages of Regional Policy

Despite this long list of reservations there can be no doubt that regional policy does have worthwhile advantages:

- a) It has created jobs in those regions that need them most, and by doing so it has undoubtedly helped alleviate their considerable social problems.
- b) In order to qualify for grants from the European Regional Fund it is necessary for Britain to have its own regional policy and a map of those areas that qualify under it. Since the Fund's inception in 1975 the UK has received £1,147 million from it, and this accounts for an important part of the rebates on its contributions that Britain has received from the EEC.
- c) Regional aid, and particularly selective assistance under Section 7 of the Industrial Development Act 1982 (formerly the Industry Act 1972), has played a very important part in attracting vital inward investment to Britain, especially from advanced countries outside the EEC such as Japan and the USA. EEC rules would prohibit the UK from offering aid to these projects on an ad hoc basis; grants have to be given under a scheme approved by the Commission. The Economist pointed out (19th February 1983) 'that Scotland...would not have an electronics industry if it were not for regional aid', and the same is true of South Wales concentration of Japanese investment.

The White Paper on 'Regional Industrial Development'

The Government's long awaited White Paper on regional industrial policy was published on 13th December 1983, following a comprehensive review of the subject. It set out the Government's approach to the policy and put forward proposals for a new structure of regional incentives. It also initiated a period of public consultation (see p 5 below) on a number of the issues concerned, including the rates of grant and the coverage of the Assisted Areas map.

When he announced the White Paper in the House, Mr Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade & Industry, summarised the Government's approach thus:

'The Government remain firmly committed to an effective regional policy. Although the economic case for regional industrial policy today is not clear cut, and the economic costs of such policies must be set against the benefits, there remains a social case for regional industrial policy to reduce regional imbalances in employment opportunities.

'The Government believes that there is scope to increase the effectiveness of regional policy and to achieve better value for money in the regions with less adverse effects on the economy as a whole' (Hansard, 13th December 1983, Col. 847).

The White Paper outlined a new framework for regional policy aimed at making the system more cost-effective, putting greater emphasis on selective, rather than automatic, assistance and to gearing RDG more specifically to projects involving job creation. More aid will also be directed towards service industries in the future.

The Main Points

Regional Development Grant Scheme

The Regional development Grant Scheme will continue as the major element in regional industrial incentives. Grant will continue to be paid at standard rates and by reference to published criteria, in order that the automatic and predictable nature of the scheme can be maintained. Under the new scheme:

* Regional Development Grant will relate to approved projects as opposed to qualifying premises as at present. Approved projects will be those which provide new productive capacity, modernise or expand existing capacity, or effect a change in a product or process or service. They will consist wholly or mainly of qualifying activities. Simple replacement investment will not qualify.

* RDG will be calculated at standard rates by reference either to a proportion of approved capital expenditure, or as an amount for each new job created, whichever is best for the investor.

* Where grant is paid in respect of capital expenditure, it will be limited by a 'cost-per-job' ceiling, so that it is payable only to the extent that a project creates jobs. This ceiling will not normally be applied to small firms.

* The scope of qualifying activities will be increased, particularly to include some service industries.

* The importance of selective assistance relative to RDG's will be increased. But re-location projects which do not provide a net increase in jobs will not normally be eligible.

- Views are sought on which service activities should qualify for RDG, what the rates of grant should be, and on how far the balance should shift from automatic to selective assistance.

The Assisted Areas

The Paper makes clear that the Government intends to revise the Assisted Area map, which is now out of date. A decision has still to be taken as to whether there should continue to be three categories of Assisted Area status, with RDG payable at different rates in the top two categories, or whether there should be only two categories with RDG payable in only one.

In the past, relative unemployment has been the major criterion, although factors such as industrial structure and location have also been taken into account.

Present map coverage is also based on Travel-to-Work areas, which will be revised in line with the more up-to-date data now becoming available from the 1981 Census returns, taking account of criticisms of the earlier method.

- Views are invited on both the criteria for designation and on map coverage.

Other Regional Industrial Assistance

The Paper emphasises that regional aid policies should focus to a greater extent on encouraging new and indigenous development in the Assisted Areas which would lead to self-generating growth

rather than simply the transfer of jobs from one part of the country to another.

- Views are invited on whether special measures should be taken to encourage innovation and new company formation in the Assisted Areas.

- Views are also sought on the ways in which the British Technology Group can encourage innovation in the Assisted Areas through its technology transfer role.

- Views are sought on how much geographical variations in wage rates effect companies choice of location.

Transitional Arrangements:

To avoid disruption and uncertainty arising from these changes, there will be a twelve month transition period from the introduction of the scheme before they take full effect. For projects which have already been offered selective assistance, RDG will continue to be paid under the old rules, not the new. The old rules will also apply for projects for which application has already been made, or are made before January 31st 1984, provided an offer is made before changes to the legislation are brought into effect.

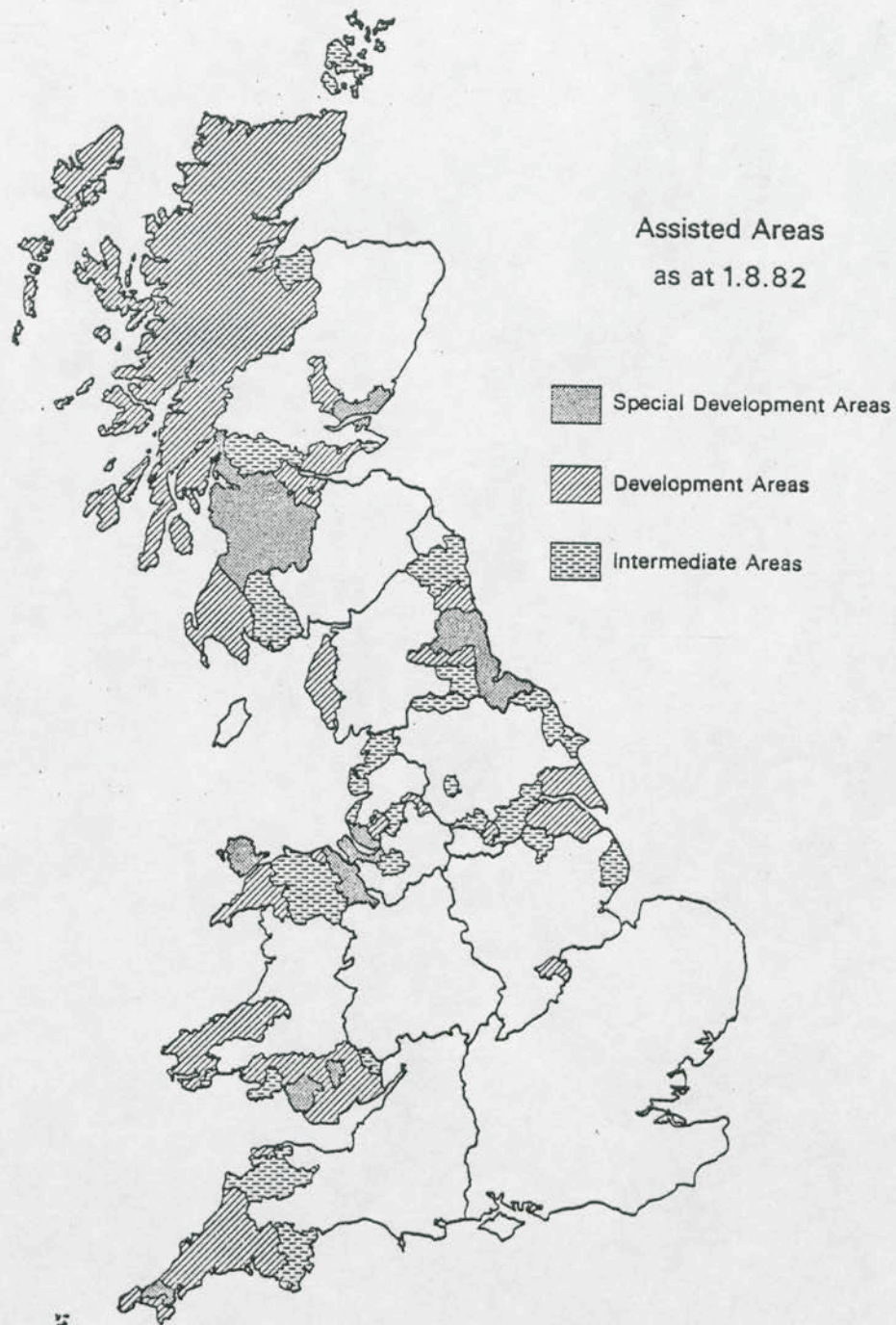
/APPENDIX ...7

Conservative Research Dept
32 Smith Square LONDON SW1

RE/CR
2.2.84

MONEY FOR THE REGIONS (£m)		
	1982-83	1983-84
Regional Development Grant	600	474
Other Industry Department Aid	218	168
Urban Programme	200	263
Urban Development Corporation	64	67
Derelict Land Improvement	<u>59</u>	<u>75</u>
	1,141	1,047
	—	—

(Source: Public Expenditure White Paper Cmnd 8789)



	<i>Special Development Area % GB</i>	<i>Development Area % GB</i>	<i>Intermediate Area % GB</i>	<i>Total* in Great Britain Assisted Areas % GB</i>
WORKING POPULATION				
—England	7.0	4.5	4.5	16.0
—Scotland	5.0	1.6	0.4	7.0
—Wales	1.1	2.7	0.7	4.5
Great Britain	13.1	8.8	5.6	27.5
LAND COVERAGE	5.0	24.8	7.7	37.5
AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT October 1983	18.1	15.6	15.0	16.7

* Due to rounding working population figures do not add to the total for Great Britain Assisted Areas.

Source: Regional Industrial Development Cmnd 9111

Summary of Incentives

Under the Current Policy

REGIONAL AID	Special Development Areas (SDAs)	Development Areas (DAs)	Intermediate Areas (IAs)	Other areas
Regional Development Grants Available for capital expenditure:				
a on new building works (other than mining works);	22%	15%	NIL	NIL
b on new plant and machinery — provided chiefly for manufacturing industry.	22%	15%	NIL	NIL
Regional Selective Assistance				
i <i>For manufacturing, mining and construction industries</i> Section 7 or Project Grants based on the fixed costs of a project.	Negotiable as the minimum necessary for the project to proceed			NIL
ii <i>Office and Service Industries Scheme</i> Grants based on the number of jobs a project is expected to create over three years.	Negotiable as the minimum necessary for the project to proceed within the following maxima: £8,000 per job £5,000 per job £2,500 per job			NIL
iii <i>In-plant Training Scheme</i> Grants towards training costs.	80% of eligible training costs			NIL
iv <i>Loans from Europe</i> Fixed interest loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB) for projects creating or safeguarding jobs.	Available in all Assisted Areas			NIL
Similar loans from the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).	Available in all coal and steel closure areas			NIL
v <i>Exchange Risk Guarantee Scheme</i> Covers firms against the exchange risk on foreign currency loans.	Available on loans from the EIB and ECSC			

NATION-WIDE AID

i <i>Support for Innovation</i> To encourage industrial research and development and the application of new technologies in products and processes.	Up to 33½% in all Areas	
ii <i>National Selective Assistance (Section 8)</i> Available to manufacturing industries for major projects involving new investments of at least £0.5 million.	Negotiable as the minimum necessary for the project to proceed	
iii <i>Coal-firing Scheme</i> Assistance is available in the agricultural, manufacturing and most service industries towards the cost of switching gas and/or oil fired industrial equipment to coal-firing.	Up to 25% in all Areas	
Loans are also available from the ECSC. Borrowers can be covered under the Exchange Risk Guarantee Scheme against exchange rate fluctuations.	Up to 50% of project costs in all Areas	

(Source: 'A Summary of Incentives for Industry',
Department of Trade & Industry)

26th January 1984

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

COMMONS PRIMARY

DF
30/1

i. Awaiting Second Reading

Data Protection

Foreign Limitation Period (L)

/Fosdyke Bridge Bill - after completion of hybrid bill procedure_7

Somerset House (L)

ii. Standing Committee

Start Date

London Regional Transport

17 January

Health and Social Security

24 January

Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) (L)

1 February

Occupiers Liability (L)

2 February

Ordnance Factories and Military Services

26 January

Police and Criminal Evidence

17 November

Rates

26 January

Rating and Valuation (Amendment) (Scotland)

17 January

Trade union

22 November

iii. Awaiting Committee on the Floor

iv. Awaiting Report and Third Reading

COMMISSIONS SECONDARY LEGISLATION

i) Affirmative

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date Required By</u>	<u>Opposition approached re referral to Committee</u>	<u>Opposition response</u>	<u>Date of debate Floor/Committee</u>
Pedal Bicycles (Safety) Regulations 1984				1 February Committee
*Fishing Vessels (Financial Assistance) Scheme 1983				?
Companies Acts (Pre-Consolidation Amendments) Order 1983				1 February Committee
Medicines (Cyanogenetic Substances) Order 1983				8 February Committee
Air Navigation (Noise Certification) Order 1984				?
District Electoral Area Commissioner (N.I.) Order 1983				Floor
Rate Support Grant (Scotland) Order 1984				31 January Floor
Grants to Redundant Churches Fund Order 1984				8 February Committee
Housing Support Grant (Scotland) Order 1984				31 Jan Floor
European Assembly Elections (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1984				
Aberdeen and District Milk Marketing Scheme (Application to Banff) Revocation Order 1984				
Aberdeen and District Milk Marketing Scheme 1984				
Local Loans (Increase of Limit) Order 1984				
Welsh Rate Support Grant Report 1984-85				

* Associated with three negative instruments, See EDMs 381, 382, and 383.

MMONS - SECONDARY LEGISLATION

ii) NEGATIVE
- Annulment

<u>EDM</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Signatories</u>	<u>Expiry date</u>	<u>Date for debate Ctte/Floor</u>
339	Industrial Tribunals SI/1983/1807	Dr Owen	5 Feb	1 February Floor
340	Sea Fishing (Community (Conservation Measures) SI/1983/1818	Mr Steel	5 Feb	2 Feb Committee
381	Herring and White Fish (Specified Manx Waters) Licensing (Variation) Order 1983 SI 1879	Mr Kinnock	16 Feb	
382	Sea Fishing (Specified Western Waters) (Restriction on Landing) (Variation No.2) Order 1983 SI 1880	Mr Kinnock	16 Feb	
383	Sea Fish Licensing (Variation) Order 1983 SI 1881	Mr Kinnock	16 Feb	
	- Revocation			
364	Town and Country Planning General Development (Amendment) Order 1983 SI 1615	Mr Kinnock		8 Feb 4.30 pm Committee

LORDS

Agricultural Holdings (L)
Animal Health and Welfare (L)
Cable and Broadcasting (L)
County Courts (L)
Education (Grants and Awards)
Foster Children (Scotland)(L)
Housing and Building Control
Inshore Fishing (Scotland)(L)
Matrimonial and Family Proceedings (L)
Mental Health (Scotland)(L)
Prevention of Terrorism
Registered Homes (L)
Repatriation of Prisoners (L)
Roads (Scotland)(L)
Telecommunications
Tenants' Rights, Etc. (Scotland)(Amendment)
Tourism (Overseas Promotion)(Scotland)
Town and Country Planning

PRIME MINISTER

MF 2

Attached is the Lord Privy Seal's memorandum for QL Committee on the legislative programme for the next Session. The Policy Unit have asked me to draw your attention to a number of points. In particular, they are worried that if QL accepts the Lord Privy Seal's recommendation (paragraph 18 of the paper), there will be no place in the programme for major privatisation legislation on airports, the National Bus Company and the gas industry. They would also like assured tendencies to be in the programme (see paragraph 17 of the Lord Privy Seal's minute). David Pascall has commented, in addition, on the MAFF proposal for an Abolition Bill.

QL is meeting on Tuesday and the Lord President is coming in on Wednesday to talk about the Committee's preliminary conclusions. The meeting with Lord Whitelaw will provide an opportunity to raise the points made by the Policy Unit or any other points.

JH

TIM FLESHER

20 January, 1984

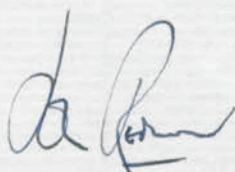
20 January 1984

MR FLESHER

The legislative programme as outlined in the QL paper is not one that the public would expect from the first full year of a vigorous and radical Government. It is strange that at the very time that E(A) is considering a major programme of denationalisation, all of the legislation to enable this has been left out from the legislative programme. The Civil Aviation, Public Transport and Gas Bills are vital if E(A) agrees to the proposed privatisation timetable on Wednesday. The Home Office has a good case for a Bill to set up the independent prosecution service, whilst the DoE may well need a Bill on housing which could include the shared tenancies measures.

If this makes the programme too crowded, the virtues of merchant shipping, all three Scottish Bills, films and transport goods vehicle "O" licensing could be queried.

David Pascall is setting out the case against the Industrial Pollution Bill that is proposed separately.

JOHN REDWOOD



Tim

10 DOWNING STREET

Legislative Programme

Need to include

Prosecutions

Privatisation : Civil Aviation
Public Transport
Gas

All are vital if E(A) agrees
available on wednesday.

Assured Tenancies

Could delete

Merchant Shipping (substantial)

A Scottish Bill (medium)

Films (medium)

Transport Goods Vehicle 'O' licensing
(medium)



Y Swyddfa Gymreig
Welsh Office

*Gyda Chyfarchion yr
Is-Ysgrifennydd Seneddol*

*With the Compliments of the
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State*

*Telephone:
01-233 3000*

*Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.*

MR FLESHER20 January 1984LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME: 1984/85

Some comments on the Pollution (Protection of Food and Marine Environment) Bill in the context of our earlier paper to the Prime Minister on industrial pollution issues generally.

The first part of the proposed Bill will tighten up the administration of the 1974 Act on dumping at sea. The proposals do not represent any significant change in policy but provide a sounder legal basis for existing practices and greater flexibility in licensing arrangements.

In its own terms this is fair enough. However, it will focus public attention upon our policy for the disposal of sewage and industrial wastes and low level nuclear wastes in particular. We are already coming under considerable national and international pressure to restrict sea dumping. The German Government is convening a European Ministerial Conference in the Autumn on the North Sea where the UK could well be isolated.

|| It is possible, therefore, that we shall need to reconsider our policy on dumping at sea.

The second part of the Bill will introduce statutory powers to control the distribution and consumption of food contaminated by a civil nuclear, chemical or similar incident.

|| Such a measure is also likely to add to public concern on the basis that we are anticipating this type of incident.

It is also possible that the Prime Minister's forthcoming review of policy and presentation for industrial pollution could indicate the need for primary legislation on other subjects. Two possibilities are the amendment of the Wildlife and Countryside Act and a comprehensive and compulsory control system for pesticides.

We suggest that any pollution legislation for 1984/85 needs to be considered in the wider context of our general approach to industrial pollution problems.

DLP.

DAVID PASCALL

✓ Press Office

010



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

13 January 1984

Dear Sir,

16/1

The Lord Privy Seal is concerned that in the coming months of the Parliamentary session the progress of Government business should not be impeded by unnecessary Points of Order over the handling of Government announcements in the House. The weeks before the recent Christmas Adjournment were not very happy in this respect.

He would therefore be grateful if Departments could give renewed attention to their procedures for handling important Government announcements and in particular to the following points:

(a) The need to consult this office, No 10 and the Chief Whip's Private Secretary, at the earliest practicable stage, on timing and on whether a statement should be in oral or written form. Where the requirement to consult seems marginal, Departments should err on the side of caution.

(b) The importance of not exposing the Government to charges of discourtesy to the House, on the grounds that information has been disclosed to the Press before being given to Parliament. The Lord Privy Seal shares the serious view taken by the Chair in matters of this kind and would be grateful if Departments could therefore take particular care in considering the timing of Press Conferences or Releases in relation to announcements in the House.

(c) The necessity of ensuring that requisite copies of texts (eg. Written Replies, Statements) and documents (eg. Bills, White Papers) are made available at the appropriate times and in sufficient numbers. Failure to do so is a source of justifiable irritation to Members and of much potential delay in the conduct of business. Experience strongly suggests that there is a need for careful attention to these details; in cases of doubt or difficulty, Departments should consult this office and the Chief Whip's Private Secretary.

The Lord Privy Seal very much hopes that, by this means, it will be possible to reduce significantly the opportunities for delaying Government business in the busy period ahead.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to Members of the Cabinet, with the request that they draw it to the attention of other Ministerial offices in their Departments; and to the Private Secretaries to the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever

David

D C R HEYHOE
Private Secretary

H Taylor Esq
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for Home Affairs

020



With the Compliments
of the
Private Secretary
to the
Lord Privy Seal



D

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

13/1

15/1 January 1984

Amesbury

The Lord Privy Seal has it in mind to write to Departments on the lines of the enclosed draft. It will clearly be helpful if the letter can be sent soon after the House returns, but I should be grateful to know if there are any amendments which you would like to suggest.

I am copying this to Tim Flesher (No 10).

*Yours ever,
D C R*

D C R HEYHOE
Private Secretary

M Maclean Esq
Private Secretary to the
Chief Whip
No 12 Downing Street

Enc.

I am concerned that in the coming months of the Parliamentary session the progress of Government business should not be impeded by unnecessary Points of Order over the handling of Government announcements in the House. The weeks before the recent Christmas Adjournment were not very happy in this respect.

The procedures for handling important Government announcements are well-established, but I should be grateful if Departments could give renewed attention to the following points:

(a) The need to consult this office, No 10 and the Chief Whip's office, at the earliest practicable stage, on timing and on whether a statement should be in oral or written form. Where the requirement to consult seems marginal, I hope that Departments will err on the side of caution.

(b) The importance of not exposing the Government to charges of discourtesy to the House, on the grounds that information has been disclosed to the Press before being given to Parliament. I share the serious view taken by the Chair in matters of this kind and I would be grateful if Departments could therefore take particular care in considering the timing of Press Conferences or releases in relation to announcements in the House.

(c) The necessity of ensuring that requisite copies of texts and documents are made available at the appropriate times and in sufficient numbers in accordance with the established procedure. Failure to do so is a source of justifiable irritation to Members and of much potential delay in the conduct of business. In cases of doubt or difficulty, Departments should consult this office and the Chief Whip's Office.

I hope that, by this means, we shall be able to reduce significantly the opportunities for delaying Government business.

I am copying this to Cabinet colleagues with the request that they draw it to the attention of other Ministers in their Departments; to John Wakeham and Sir Robert Armstrong.

112 JAN 1984





2 PPS

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

21 December 1983

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 23 November.

I agree with your assessment of the position so far as Tony Marlow's Bill (now published) is concerned and I also agree that the initial leak about our intentions on dog licensing did not generate the amount of public and media interest that I thought might follow; it has certainly fuelled the Lobby groups and led to a fair number of individual enquiries. Since I wrote to you there have been two Questions asking if the Government has completed its consideration of the PAC report on dog licensing. Significantly, these were asked by Miss Janet Fookes MP, Member of the RSPCA Council and Vice-President of JACOPIS (The Joint Advisory Committee on Pets in Society, whose members include the Veterinary associations, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, the RSPCA, and the Pet Food Manufacturers Association); and by Lord Irving, a Vice-President of the Association of District Councils. In addition the President of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales has written to me referring to the recent press speculation and strongly urging that the dog licence be retained and increased; the NFU have also issued a Press Notice on this.

I still feel that an early announcement would have advantages but, apart from George Younger, I have not heard from colleagues generally that they have any great wish to see an announcement yet. In the circumstances I accept, for the present at least, your suggestion that we defer any Government statement until the consultation paper is ready or until the date of the PAC debate. However, if pressures do arise as we envisaged, particularly in the media, then I may indeed come back to you on the desirability of an earlier Government statement. In the meantime, the Department is working up its draft consultation paper for consideration by colleagues as quickly as possible.

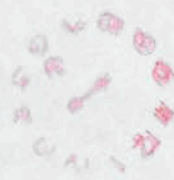
I am copying this to the Prime Minister, to members of L and H Committees, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir George Engle.

*Yours
Patrick*

PATRICK JENKIN

The Rt Hon John Biffen MP

Pam Legis P11



DEC 22 1981



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

21 December 1983

Dear George

will request if required.

Thank you for your letter of 5 December supporting my proposal for an early announcement of Government intentions on dogs in the context of Tony Marlow's Bill.

However, as you will see from the enclosed copy of my reply to John Biffen's letter of 23 November, colleagues generally did not appear to favour this idea and in all the circumstances I have agreed that we should defer any Government statement until the consultative paper is ready, or until the date of the PAC debate. I have made the proviso that I may raise the matter again if pressures do arise, particularly in the media. I hope that this course will appear acceptable to you.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to members of L and H Committees, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir George Engle.

*Yours
Patrick*

PATRICK JENKIN

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION(i) Awaiting Second Reading

Data Protection (L)
 Health and Social Security
 Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) (L) (Ctte)
 Occupiers' Liability (L) (Ctte)

(ii) Standing Committee

London Regional Transport
 Police and Criminal Evidence
 Rating and Valuation (Amendment) (Scotland)
 Trade union

(iii) Awaiting Committee on the Floor(iv) Awaiting Report and Third Reading

Housing and Building Control
 Prevention of Terrorism
 Tenants' Rights, etc (Scotland) (Amendment)

(v) Orders and Regulations

	<u>Date Laid</u>	<u>Whether Controversial</u>	<u>Date Required</u>
* British Waterways Board	9/11	No	By Christmas
* Customs and Excise Duties (2 Orders)	29/11	No	Within 28 days of laying
* Customs and Excise (ECSC)	1/12	No	By Christmas
District Electoral Areas (N.I.)	15/12		New Year
* Employment Protection	1/12	?	January
* Eurocontrol	9/11	No	By Christmas
Fisheries (Amendment) (N.I.)	15/11	No	By 21/12/83
Medicines	15/12		New Year
Pedal Cycles	8/12		January
* Pneumoconiosis	16/11	No	By Christmas
Social Security (3 Orders)	17/11	Maybe	By Christmas
* Statutory Sick Pay	29/11	No	By Christmas
Urban Development	5/12		New Year
* S.I. Committee			

AT
 20ms

AS



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-212 3434

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I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to members of L and H Committees, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir George Engle.

*Yours
Patrick*

PATRICK JENKIN

Pam legis At 11



DEC 23 1991

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION(i) Awaiting Second Reading

Data Protection (L)
 Health and Social Security
 Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) (L)(Ctte)
 Occupiers' Liability (L) (Ctte)

(ii) Standing Committee

London Regional Transport
 Police and Criminal Evidence
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* Statutory Sick Pay	29/11	No	By Christmas
Urban Development	5/12		New Year
* S.I. Committee			

AT
 20 mins

SS

Lords

- Agricultural Holdings (L)
- Animal Health and Welfare (L)
- British Shipbuilders (Borrowing Powers)
- Cable and Broadcasting (L)
- Coal Industry
- ∅ County Courts (L)
- Education (Grants and Awards)
- Foreign Limitation Periods (L)
- Fosdyke Bridge (L)
- ∅ Foster Children (Scotland) (L)
- Inshore Fishing (Scotland) (L)
- Matrimonial and Family Proceedings (L)
- Petroleum Royalties (Relief)
- Repatriation of Prisoners (L)
- Restrictive Trade Practices (Stock Exchange)
- Roads (Scotland) (L)
- Somerset House (L)
- Telecommunications
- Tourism (Overseas Promotion) (Scotland) (L)
- Town and Country Planning

∅ Consolidation

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (9)

Appropriation (No.2) 1983

Car Tax 1983

Companies (Beneficial Interests) 1983

Finance (No.2) 1983

International Monetary Arrangements 1983

Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers) 1983

Medical 1983

Oil Taxation 1983

Value Added Tax 1983



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

13 December 1983

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine MP
Secretary of State for Defence

DA
17/12

Dear Secretary of State,

**INTERNATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES LTD:
PROVISION IN THE ROF BILL**

You wrote to me on 8 December about the insertion of a clause on International Military Services Ltd in the Ordnance Factories and Military Services Bill.

I agree that provision should be made in the Bill to cover your contingent liabilities towards IMS Ltd. I understand that a suitable clause has been included in the draft Bill presented to Legislation Committee for their meeting today.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of E(A), the Home Secretary and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret O'Hara

NIGEL LAWSON

*(Approved by the Chancellor
and signed in his absence)*

173 DEC 1957

12 1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9

cf no



DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

1-19 VICTORIA STREET

LONDON SW1H 0ET

Telephone (Direct dialling) 01-215 5422

GTN 215

(Switchboard) 215 7877

JF5085

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

12 December 1983

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

Prime Minister ②
Legislation by end
January now looks feasible
AT
12/12
MT

D Willie,

CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Thank you for your letter of 2 December. I too regret that we are unable to meet our original timetable.

2 I fully understand that, for the present, you cannot give unqualified agreement to the inclusion of the combined CDA/RDG Bill in the programme. I am advised that introduction by the end of January as you now propose should be possible and we are proceeding on that basis. We will try to bring the Bill to L Committee in the week commencing 16 January as you ask. However, I understand that introduction by end January is still possible even if we cannot come to L Committee before the week commencing 23 January, and that this too would be acceptable to you.

3 As to the White Paper, it contains no express statement as to the timing of legislation. However it is implicit from our stated intention to introduce the new RDG scheme in Autumn 1984 that legislation this Session would be necessary. If asked, I shall have to say that introduction of the scheme on this timetable entails early legislation, but I shall of course give no commitment on timing.

4 I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

NORMAN TEBBIT

Perkins
Legis latron
ppn

12 DEC 1983

LIBRARY
SERIALS
SECTION
UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Reg For Review Pto



MO 10/4

8th December 1983

D
9/11CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUERINTERNATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES LTD: PROVISION IN THE
ROF BILL

I am circulating a Memorandum to Legislation Committee seeking approval for the introduction of a Bill to change the status of the Royal Ordnance Factories; this Bill contains provisions on International Military Services Limited (IMS Ltd) and the purpose of this minute is to seek your formal agreement that it should do so.

2. When IMS shares were transferred to the Secretary of State for Defence in 1979, the then Minister of State for Defence gave an assurance that legislation would be introduced as soon as Parliamentary time permitted to make the necessary provision for financial backing for the Company. On two subsequent occasions the PAC showed an interest in financial relationships with IMS and the assurance was repeated by the then PUS that an early opportunity would be taken to introduce legislation to put on a proper footing the continued acceptance of financial liabilities. There is in fact no expenditure involved in the relationship with IMS but the existence of a contingent liability is regarded as a continuing function which requires statutory authority rather than the present method of putting a footnote to estimates.

3. Proposals have been prepared and put to a Legislation Committee during the last three years but it has not been possible to include even this short Bill in the legislative programme because of pressure on the programme. The ROF Bill presents us with an opportunity and a



draft clause has been prepared which authorises and limits the acceptance of the contingent liability. It provides statutory cover for sums paid by the Secretary of State in connection with the share-holding in IMS and in consequence of arrangements for financial support to the Company to be paid out of money provided by Parliament; and for sums received to be paid into the Consolidated Fund. The limit placed on liability under the arrangements for financial support - which has been agreed by my officials with yours - is £50M with a further £50M available on affirmative resolution.

4. I hope that in view of the undertaking given in 1979 and subsequently and the previous attempts to find room for a short Bill in the legislative programme, you will be content with the insertion of the necessary clause in the ROF Bill as envisaged in my Memorandum to Legislation Committee L(83)152 of 8th December.

5. I am sending copies of this minute to the Prime Minister, the other members of E(A), the Home Secretary and Sir Robert Armstrong.

wjt

Ministry of Defence
8th December 1983



1965
APR 1
10 5

REC-1085



CC: NO

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

8 December 1983

PS
9/12

Dear Sir

PARLIAMENTARY PENSIONS BILL

Thank you for your letter of 15 November seeking agreement to including provisions on MEPs' severance pay in the Parliamentary Pensions Bill. I see that John Biffen and Barney Hayhoe are content, and in the absence of dissent from other colleagues you may take it that you have H Committee's approval for the change.

I am copying this reply to the Prime Minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe, other members of H Committee and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten signature]

The Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP

Patient: Legimakin Pt 11E



10 DOWNING STREET

- 1) Mr Turnbull Not at all AF 6/12
- 2) Mr Barclay

Would it, do you
think, be exceeding our
bines to show the attached
to the PM when the draft
dogs White Paper appears?

D.

CF

~~For~~

Please b/t with the draft
consultation paper when it
arrives.

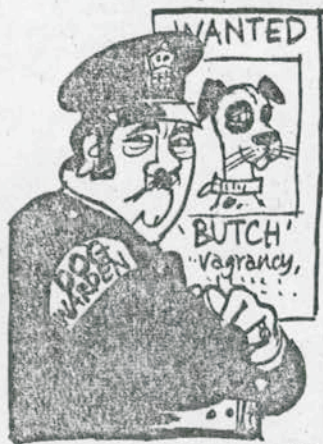
Dms
7/12

Hounds of fate

GUARDIAN

29-76

KENNETH BAKER MP considers the brave new world of dog licences



EVERY leader in the West is against "Big Government." Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan are against it. Mrs Thatcher speaks eloquently against it, and the Prime Minister is manoeuvring himself into the position of being, by the time of the next election, the champion of the little man. But Big Government invariably starts in a small way.

If the role of Government is to be reduced, then people have to be weaned away from believing that the State can solve all their problems. It is pointless criticising the size of the bureaucracy if people, politicians and Government all conspire to find solutions that invariably lead to more bureaucrats — recording, checking, analysing, policing, following-up and generally cossetting. The mood of the country in general is now clearly against Government, but it is very difficult to interpret and implement this in the particular. One essential thing is that we must all resist the urge to find new areas for state intervention. A classic example of this is the report that has just appeared, from a working party of civil servants, on dogs.

The report reveals that there are about six million dogs in the UK, and up to one million could be

strays—though only 200,000 have actually been taken into police stations as strays in any one year. Stray dogs are a nuisance. They foul footpaths; cause accidents; worry livestock and contaminate the soil of parks with diseases that can be passed to humans. The police are too busy to spend more time on dogs, and the inevitable answer is a national force of 1,000 dog wardens.

The cost can be met by increasing the dog licence to £5. The Minister has asked for comments, but has no doubt about it: the campaign for dog wardens is rolling on and brave is the man who will stand up and say "what rubbish."

The arguments swing to and fro. Some opponents have even dared to suggest that there aren't many stray dogs. Since they are domestic animals, they need food to be given to them daily, and therefore what may appear to be a stray to one person is someone else's pet which they see and feed in the evening. Moreover 60 per cent of the stray dogs that are taken to police stations are claimed within a few days. How pettifogging of the opponents to play with statistics like this when every sensible person with a pair of eyes knows that there is a problem of stray dogs! Some opponents in their narrow bigoted way

have suggested that the Treasury would never allow the revenue from dog licences to be earmarked for the warden service since this would be breaching a fundamental principle of not hypothecating revenue. If the licence money were earmarked why shouldn't the petrol duties and the car licence revenue be spent just on roads instead of paying interest on our debts. How narrow of the Treasury to think like this when the health and safety of the nation are at stake! Some obtuse if not lunatic opponents asked if it would be better to appoint bee and wasp wardens since these had been responsible for eighty deaths since 1900.

No, the case was convincing and in 1977 a thousand dog wardens were appointed. In 1978 ten regional pounds had to be built, all with facilities for de-worming and for spaying bitches, and it was clear that a further 500 wardens were needed. In 1979 these wardens revealed that an even greater threat to health and safety were stray cats. The Government, prior to introducing cat licences in 1980, approved the doubling of the wardens!

In 1981 following the escape of a tame crocodile off Wigan Pier, and the terrorising of Scunthorpe by an orang-utang the Government agreed that the National

Force of Cat and Dog Wardens should be responsible for all animal protection and welfare. In 1982 a Minister for Animal Protection was appointed to take his place alongside the Minister for the Arts, the Minister for the Disabled. In the same year the Queen allowed the force to use the appellation "Royal" and the College of Heralds approved their motto: *Per Ordure ad Astra*.

In 1983 replying to a Parliamentary Question the Minister said: "The Inspectorate of the Animal Protection Staff amounted to 3,000 qualified wardens, and the administrative support to a further 4,000. The House will realise that the administrative support on this scale is necessary to follow through the work of the wardens, to administer the pounds, to provide veterinary services and to prevent licence evasion. I am glad to tell the House that the Government has decided to establish an animal licensing centre in an area of high unemployment."

In 1984, Britain held the first International Conference of Animal Wardens. At last we had taken a lead in world affairs. In this annus mirabilis the Government introduced the "RSPCA and Battersea Dogs Home Nationalisation Bill," since the private provision of such services was on a national basis

inappropriate. In 1985 the Government, to stop unemployment reaching three million, introduced a scheme to allow each animal warden to take on a young school leaver. This doubled the Inspectorate to 7,000 and the total administrative cost in that year, at 1977 prices, rose to £150 millions. In 1986 the Minister for Animal Protection surrendered to the lobby that wanted animal licences treated like drug prescription. The old, the young, and pregnant women were exempted. This reduced the yield of licences to £10 millions. In 1987 the tenth anniversary celebrations of the establishment of the Warden Force which took place in Wembley Stadium were spoiled when an elderly lady rose up and felled the chief warden, since her dog had been taken from her to be de-wormed, spayed, pounded and destroyed. The judge in sentencing her said: "It is people like you who, by defying the rule of Parliament, undermine law and order and imperil the health and safety of our nation." The elderly lady's comments were struck from the Court record.

Now is the time to say "No" to this nonsense.

Kenneth Baker is Conservative MP for Westminster, St Marylebone

C9A10



Prime Minister ^②

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

To note. You earlier requested that legislation should follow the White Paper reasonably quickly. Reports of delay in legislation therefore disturbing.

2 December 1983

AT 5/12

Dear Norman

mb

CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Following discussion with John Biffen on 1 November, you wrote to me on 10 November seeking agreement to inclusion of regional development grant provisions in the Bill on the Co-operative Development Agency which has a place in the "essential" category of the current legislative programme. you went on to confirm that the objective was to introduce the combined legislation as soon as possible, and that it seemed likely that the addition of the RDG provisions would not delay introduction of the Bill by more than a month - ie from November to December.

Despite the reservations which John Biffen outlined to you, he and I were disposed to regard that as an acceptable proposition. But I now understand that the combined Bill is not likely to be fully drafted before mid to late January - whereas it would just about be possible to introduce before Christmas a Bill dealing with CDA alone. It does therefore seem that the addition of the RDG provisions is holding us back, and you will appreciate that the combined effect of enlargement of the Bill to cover a more controversial subject and delay in its introduction could cause problems for the business managers. Given the uncertainty about your timetable, I do not think it would be right for me to give unqualified agreement to the inclusion of a combined Bill in the programme. I think therefore that we must leave it like this: if a combined Bill can be brought before L Committee and introduced in Parliament before the end of January - which means in practice aiming for a Legislation Committee meeting not later than the week of 16 January - I am content that it should be proceeded with. If it cannot be made ready by then, we will have to seriously consider proceeding with legislation on CDA alone. I am content that you should meanwhile issue a White Paper provided no commitment is made about the timing of legislation.

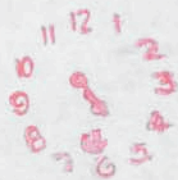
I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of QL and E(A), First Parliamentary Counsel and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

The Rt Hon Norman Tebbit MP

Yours
Biffen

Parliament: Legislative Prog. P-4

- 2 DEC 1983



GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION(i) Second Reading

Data Protection (L)
 Health and Social Security
 London Regional Transport
 Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) (L)
 Occupiers' Liability (L)
 Rating and Valuation (Amendment) (Scotland)
 Town and Country Planning

A
 2/12

(ii) Standing Committee

Coal Industry
 Education (Grants and Awards)
 Police and Criminal Evidence
 Prevention of Terrorism
 Tenants' Rights, etc (Scotland) Amendment
 Trade Union

(iii) Report and Third Reading

Housing and Building Control
 Telecommunications

(iv) Orders and Regulations

	<u>Date Laid</u>	<u>Whether Controversial</u>	<u>Date Required</u>
Agriculture and Horticulture (2 Orders)	30/11	No	By Christmas
Appropriation (No.3) (N.I.)	23/11	No	For debate, 8/12
British Waterways Board	9/11	No	By Christmas
* Consumer Credit	3/11	No	By mid-December
Customs and Excise Duties (2 Orders)	29/11	No	Within 28 days of laying
Eligibility for Release	1/12	Yes	By Christmas
Eurocontrol	9/11	No	By Christmas
* Farm Structure	8/11	No	By 14 December
Fisheries (Amendment) (N.I.)	15/11	No	By 21 December
Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions)	24/11	Yes	For debate, 8/12
* Pneumoconiosis	16/11	No	By Christmas
Social Security (3 Orders)	17/11	Maybe	By Christmas
Statutory Sick Pay	29/11	No	By Christmas
VAT (Charities Etc)	24/11	No	Within 28 days of laying

*S.I. Committee

Lords

Agricultural Holdings (L)
Animal Health and Welfare (L)
British Shipbuilders (Borrowing Powers)
Cable and Broadcasting (L)
∅ County Courts (L)
Foreign Limitation Periods (L)
Fosdyke Bridge (L)
∅ Foster Children (Scotland) (L)
Inshore Fishing (Scotland) (L)
Matrimonial and Family Proceedings (L)
Petroleum Royalties (Relief)
Repatriation of Prisoners (L)
Restrictive Trade Practices (Stock Exchange)
Roads (Scotland) (L)
Somerset House (L)
Tourism (Overseas Promotion) (Scotland) (L)

∅ Consolidation

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (9)

Appropriation (No.2) 1983

Car Tax 1983

Companies (Beneficial Interests) 1983

Finance (No.2) 1983

International Monetary Arrangements 1983

Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers) 1983

Medical 1983

Oil Taxation 1983

Value Added Tax 1983

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

- (i) Second Reading
 Data Protection (L)
 Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) (L)
 Occupiers' Liability (L)
 Rating and Valuation (Amendment) (Scotland)

- (ii) Committee of Whole House
 Restrictive Trade Practices (Stock Exchange)

- (iii) Standing Committee
 Coal Industry
 Education (Grants and Awards)
 Housing and Building Control
 Police and Criminal Evidence
 Prevention of Terrorism
 Telecommunications
 Tenants' Rights, etc (Scotland) Amendment
 Trade Union

- (iv) Orders and Regulations

	<u>Date Laid</u>	<u>Whether Controversial</u>	<u>Date Required</u>
Appropriation (No.3) (N.I.)	23/11	No	By P.C. Mtg on 21/12
British Waterways Board	9/11	No	By Christmas
* Consumer Credit	3/11	No	By mid-December
* Double Taxation Relief (3 Orders)	27/7+ 3/11	No	By Christmas
Eurocontrol	9/11	No	By Christmas
* Farm Structure	8/11	No	By 14 December
Fisheries (Amendment)(N.I.)	15/11	No	By 21 December
Judgements Enforcement	11/11	No	For debate, 30/11
*Legal (6 Orders)	8/11 + 14/11	No	By 29 November
Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions)	24/11	Yes	By Christmas
Pneumonoconiosis	16/11	No	By Christmas
Social Security (3 Orders)	17/11	Maybe	By Christmas
VAT (Charities Etc)	24/11	No	Within 28 days of laying

* S.I. Committee

Lords

Agricultural Holdings (L)

British Shipbuilders (Borrowing Powers)

Foreign Limitation Periods (L)

Fosdyke Bridge (L)

∅ Foster Children (Scotland)(L)

Inshore Fishing (Scotland)(L)

Matrimonial and Family Proceedings (L)

Oil Taxation

Petroleum Royalties (Relief)

Roads (Scotland) (L)

Somerset House (L)

Tourism (Overseas Promotion)(Scotland)(L)

∅ Consolidation

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (B)

Appropriation (No.2) 1983

Car Tax 1983

Companies (Beneficial Interests) 1983

Finance (No.2) 1983

International Monetary Arrangements 1983

Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers) 1983

Medical 1983

Value Added Tax 1983



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

23 November 1983

Dear Patrick,

JD 23/11

DOGS; MR TONY MARLOW MP; TEN MINUTE RULE BILL

Thank you for your letter of 11 November in which you suggest that an early announcement on dogs should be made in reply to a Parliamentary Question.

There are, as you say, a number of factors involved and it is a matter of judgement which of them carries the most weight. At present, I start from the presumption that no announcement should be made until the consultation paper is ready. Looked at from this point of view, I do not think Tony Marlow's Bill weighs very heavily. For the reasons you give, I do not think that we should attempt to use it as a vehicle for our own policy. Nor do I think that he would withdraw. In any event, I see no reason to rush into a hasty announcement because of this Bill. It is fifth order on 2 December and therefore almost certain not to be discussed. We can certainly arrange for it to be blocked on that and subsequent days. There is therefore no immediate prospect of having to debate it.

Secondly, there is the press speculation. You will be more in touch with this than I, but it seems that the initial leak has not led to any further speculation and without a Parliamentary Debate, no particular reason why it should be revived. I would not therefore be inclined to hasty action on this account.

Finally there is the PAC debate. I quite agree that it would be preferable to have the Government's policy clear and announced before then, but the timing of that debate has not yet been fixed.

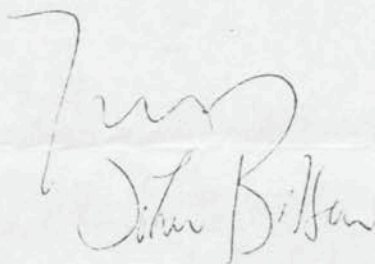
My own preference therefore would be for work to go ahead as quickly as possible on the finalisation of the consultation paper, and for no announcement to be made until either the paper is ready, or the PAC debate or a debate on Tony Marlow's Bill seems imminent. In this way we can minimise the delay between announcement and the issue of the consultation document.

/I do appreciate ...

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP

I do appreciate of course that there may be pressures on you of which I am not aware; if so I am sure that you will come back.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, to members of L and H Committees, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir George Engle.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Biffen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

JOHN BIFFEN

Parliament,
Legislation,
P411

23 NOV 1983



GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

(1) Second Reading

Data Protection (L)
Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) (L)
Occupiers' Liability (L)
Restrictive Trade Practices (Stock Exchange)

(ii) Standing Committee

Coal Industry
Education (Grants and Awards)
Housing and Building Control
Police and Criminal Evidence
Prevention of Terrorism
Telecommunications
Tenants' Rights, etc (Scotland) Amendment
Trade Union

(iii) Orders and Regulations

	<u>Date Laid</u>	<u>Whether Controversial</u>	<u>Date Required</u>
*Access to the Countryside (N.I.)	27/10	No	By Christmas
British Waterways Board	9/11	No	By Christmas
Consumer Credit	3/11	No	By mid-December
*Double Taxation Relief (3 Orders)	27/7 + 3/11	No	By Christmas
Eligibility for Release	10/11	No	By end of November
Eurocontrol	9/11	No	By Christmas
Farm Structure	8/11	No	By 14 December
Fisheries (Amendment) (N.I.)	15/11	No	By 21 December
*Housing (Scotland)	26/10	No	A.S.A.P.
Judgements Enforcement	11/11	No	By 15 December
*Legal (6 Orders)	8/11 + 14/11	No	By 29 November
Social Security (3 Orders)	17/11	Maybe	By Christmas

* S.I. Committee

Lords

Agricultural Holdings (L)

British Shipbuilders (Borrowing Powers)

Foreign Limitation Periods (L)

Fosdyke Bridge (L)

∅ Foster Children (Scotland) (L)

Matrimonial and Family Proceedings (L)

Oil Taxation

Petroleum Royalties (Relief)

Roads (Scotland) (L)

Somerset House (L)

∅ Consolidation

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (B)

Appropriation (No.2) 1983

Car Tax 1983

Companies (Beneficial Interests) 1983

Finance (No.2) 1983

International Monetary Arrangements 1983

Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers) 1983

Medical 1983

Value Added Tax 1983

Mr Fletcher

To see

PRIME MINISTER

Dms
21/11



Prime Minister

Hansard not yet available,
but you may like to note.

Briefing as this will be
provided for Mr Biffen.

Dms
18/11

MS

CHRONICALLY SICK AND DISABLED PERSONS ACT: ROBERT WAREING'S BILL

I thought you should know that the Government has been extremely well served in today's debate on the Wareing Bill by Tony Newton. As you know, our position was not an easy one but Tony made a most convincing statement of the shortcomings of the Bill and our reasons for opposing it.

It was, in my view, an outstanding speech and I hope you may find time to look at it. It will certainly provide firm ground for you in dealing with the issue if it comes up again - as must be likely - in Questions next week.

I am copying this minute to the Chief Whip and the Leader of the House.

18 November 1983

N F



18 NOV 87

12 00 25
BOSTON
MA

COMPTON

MA



CCNO

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

15 November 1983

R. White,

Handwritten initials and date: 15/11/83

PARLIAMENTARY PENSIONS BILL

I am writing to let you know that I have obtained John Biffen's agreement to the inclusion in the Parliamentary Pensions Bill of a provision to amend the severance arrangements for Members of the European Parliament to bring them into line with those of their Westminster counterparts.

When the MEPs' severance scheme was set up under the European Assembly (Pay and Pensions) Act in 1979 it was intended to be identical with the Westminster one, but the latter was altered shortly afterwards and there is now a discrepancy: whilst Westminster MPs are entitled to a severance grant equivalent to six months' salary if after five years they fail to be re-elected, MEPs stand to receive only three months'. There has as you know been some pressure for parity to be restored, and it is likely that this will increase with the approach of the 1984 elections. Parliament accepted in 1979 the principle that the two schemes should be the same and there is therefore a strong argument in principle for putting the two schemes once more on an equality. The Parliamentary Pensions Bill is a convenient vehicle for a provision to bring about this change which otherwise would need legislation of its own. The Treasury have been consulted and are content. If you and the colleagues to whom I am copying this letter agree, I shall write to Jack Stewart-Clark who is Chairman of the Managers of the MEPs' scheme informing him of our decision.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the members of H Committee and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Handwritten signature and initials.

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw, CH, MC

1 NOV 1983





2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref: J/PSO/15095/8

Your ref:

11 November 1983

Dear John,

JD
15/11

DOGS : MR TONY MARLOW MP : TEN MINUTE RULE BILL

Thank you for your letter of 25 October. Now that H Committee has discussed the conclusions and recommendations of the PAC Report, I am able to come back on the handling of this ten minute rule bill. Given the Committee's decision there appear to be three possibilities, as follows:

- (i) The Bill's Sponsor, Tony Marlow MP, might be asked to withdraw. However, in his position as Chairman of the League for the Introduction of Canine Control it might be awkward for him to do this even if he were informed in confidence of the intended Government action.
- (ii) Timing of Second Reading will be affected by the handling of other Ten Minute Rule Bills and more particularly of Ballotted Bills: Mr Marlow's Bill might fall by the wayside. However, if Second Reading takes place the Government could explain that it has plans for future legislation on dogs (in the 1984/85 Session), on which it will be consulting with local government and other interested organisations; it could then block the Bill.
- (iii) Alternatively the Government could support the Bill and say that it wishes to re-draft in Committee Stage to meet its wish for a discretionary form of local authority registration (as against Mr Marlow's scheme for local determination of the level of fee). Without a published text it is difficult to predict whether this would be practicable. In addition this course would add to the burden on my Department's resources - we already have some half dozen bills for this Session. Further, the proposal for consultation with outside bodies and local government would be diluted. Any consultation would probably have to take place in tandem with putting the legislation through Parliament.

R E S T R I C T E D

On the basis of these options my view would be that we should try to persuade Mr Marlow to withdraw his Bill but if this was unsuccessful, and if the timing was such that the Second Reading was debated, then we should block the Bill and explain that consultation on other proposals will be forthcoming.

The position is affected, however, by the leak about the H Committee decision (Mail on Sunday, 6 November). The article states, incorrectly, that I am expected to make a formal statement abandoning the licence before Christmas. As you know, H Committee decided that no announcement should be made until further details had been worked out. It occurs to me that in the circumstances there might be merit in making a statement soon, say in answer to a Parliamentary Question, before other rumours appear; this could also lead to withdrawal of the Ten Minute Rule Bill. The statement could be to the effect that the Government has now considered the PAC report and agrees that the licensing system should be abolished; but that recognising the need to deal with local dog nuisance problems the Government is considering giving local authorities powers for local registration schemes and for self-financing local action where needed. We could indicate that we expect to issue a consultation paper soon with a view to legislation in 1984/85. I favour this course. I realise that this would to some extent pre-empt the Financial Secretary's response to the PAC Reports but as I understand it no date has been fixed for that debate, while the Second Reading of Mr Marlow's Bill is on 2 December. We need therefore to act fairly quickly.

I am copying this letter to other members of L Committee, the Chairman and members of H Committee, Sir Robert Armstrong, First Parliamentary Counsel and, in view of recent correspondence, to No. 10.

*You are
Pat*

PATRICK JENKIN



NOV 15 1981

R E S T R I C T E D

The Rt Hon John Biffen MP

*Patience:
Legislation Pt 11*

PRIME MINISTER

File

TOP COPY
with P.M.

WJ

CHRONICALLY SICK AND DISABLED ACT (AMENDMENT BILL)

Mr. Kinnock asked you about the above Bill on Thursday which is due to receive its second reading next Friday. Its major features include:-

- (i) the prohibition of unreasonable discrimination against disabled people.
- (ii) the establishment of a Disabled Commission along the lines of the Equal Opportunities Commission.
- (iii) to strengthen Section 1 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Act 1970 so that local authorities are obliged to establish the identity of disabled people with needs and not just their numbers.
- (iv) to provide the right of recourse to the Courts for disabled people where local authorities fail to provide services to meet an identified need.
- (v) to extend the right of representation of disabled people on various advisory bodies.

You may recall that a similar Bill was introduced by Donald Stewart in the last session. This failed in February when Mr. Stewart could not carry the closure. The Government's view of Mr. Wareing's bill is similar. In particular that disabled people would not be best served by setting up another quango and that in any event the Government has a good record on disablement. Benefits include.

Invalidity Benefit

Numbers:- 615,000
Rate :- £32.60 (November 1983)
Cost :- £1.6 billion

Non-contributory

Non-contributory Invalidity Pension

Numbers :- 195,000
Rate :- £20.45
Cost :- £140 million

Attendance Allowance

Numbers:- 364,000
Rate :- £27.20 (for day and night allowance)
 £18.15 (for one of the two)
Cost :- £45 million

Invalid Care Allowance

Numbers:- 8,000
Rate :- £20.45
Cost :- £8 million

Mobility Allowance

Numbers:- 27,000
Rate :- £19 a week
Cost :- £240 million

All these are price protected.

The Government have something of a tactical problem with Mr. Wareing's Bill since he has asked for Conservative sponsorship. The aim will be to talk the Bill out but there is some prospect that Mr. Wareing might be able to assemble the necessary 100 members. If he does so the Chief Whip has been instructed by Legislation Committee to mobilise the Government vote against the Bill. If the Government is successful the question of a money resolution about which Mr. Kinnoek pressed you will, of course, not arise. If the Bill receives a second reading I imagine that a money resolution would have to be provided.

T. FLESHER

11 November, 1983

BACKGROUND NOTE

1. The Bill to amend the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act is sponsored by Robert Wareing. Its main aim is to prohibit unreasonable discrimination against disabled people. A Private Members Bill with a similar aim failed to gain a Second Reading in February. The Bill was published today (Monday 14 November). Its Second Reading Debate is on 18 November. Its provisions will be:-

- i) prohibition of unreasonable discrimination against disabled people;
- ii) establishment of a Disablement Commission to monitor the working of the Act and report annually;
- iii) representation of disabled people on an ill-defined but extensive range of public and private organisations; and
- iv) strengthening of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 including a survey of all disabled people.

2. There is a well-organised lobbying campaign in favour of it and it is likely to attract considerable support. H Committee Members have agreed that it should be blocked if possible but, if necessary, voted down. The Whips have been consulting with DHSS ministers on the tactics of handling it.

3. As presently drafted, the Bill would require a money resolution, but it is difficult to estimate the direct expenditure which the Bill would incur, as it is so imprecisely drafted. The Disablement Commission itself would cost up to £3 million a year to run (on a comparison with the Equal Opportunities Commission). This would presumably have to be met directly from Government funds.

4. In addition there would be additional expenditure by local authorities resulting directly from the provisions strengthening the CSDP Act which could amount to at least £30 million, and probably more. The overall financial implications indirectly flowing from this Bill (for example in likely extra demands on social service provision) could run to many millions of pounds.



CO NO

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
1-19 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0ET
TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-215 5542
SWITCHBOARD 01-215 7877

JU885

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

10 November 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
London SW1

Prime Minister

To note.

ML

AT 11/11

D. Willie,

CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Following correspondence and discussion with colleagues, I now believe that we are agreed that the proposed CDA Bill should also be the vehicle for legislation to change regional development grants, and that the combined legislation should be introduced as quickly as possible. I should be grateful if you would accept the combined Bill into the legislative programme.

2 In the light of First Parliamentary Counsel's view on the timing of the drafting, introduction of the combined legislation cannot be before December, whereas that for the CDA Bill was due this month. I hope, however, that you see no difficulty in introduction in December. The subsequent timetable need not differ substantially from that foreseen for the CDA Bill alone.

3 I am copying this to the Prime Minister, Members of QL and E(A), Sir Robert Armstrong and First Parliamentary Counsel.

*Yours
Norman*

NORMAN TEBBIT

Parliament: Legislative Pt II



CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233

18 7/11
NOV 1983

Dear Private Secretary

LEGISLATION IN THE 1984/85 SESSION

In my letter of 24 October I gave you advance notice that this year the process of putting together the Government legislative programme for the following session would start rather earlier than in the past; and that we would simultaneously be asking Departments to identify subjects on which Bills might be offered to Private Members successful in next Session's ballot. We hope that these changes will enable detailed policy and drafting work to be spread over a longer period and where possible to be completed in advance of the new session, thereby reducing logjams later. I am now writing, therefore, to ask for your Minister's proposals for legislation in the 1984/85 session of Parliament-including any Bills which have already been given places in the programme for that session.

Government Bills

2. I should be grateful if you could let me have four copies of your Department's proposals (on white paper) in the form shown at Annex G. This is slightly changed from the equivalent form used in previous years. Notes on the completion of Annex G are also enclosed, and we should be grateful if you would follow them closely (they conclude with an illustration taken from last year's bids). The entries should be grouped by category of Bill, and numbered in order of priority within each category.

3. It is not possible at this stage to give absolutely clear guidance about the size and shape of the programme Ministers will wish to have. But in compiling bids you should take account of the following considerations. It should be assumed that the 1984/85 session will be of normal length, and it is intended that it should begin in October. There is likely to be substantial legislation on local government matters, and this may mean that the rest of the programme has to be shorter than usual. Particular importance will therefore attach to the order of priority in which Departments list their bids and what is said about their timing. It is not sufficient to say by when Royal Assent is wanted; the reason or reasons must also be given. Estimates about timing and comments about the state of readiness must be realistic, and in particular should take account of the length of time it will take to have a Bill properly drafted. Estimates which prove to be unrealistic will cause problems for all concerned later on, and may cause the business managers to press for a Bill to be dropped from the programme.

Private Secretary to -
Prime Minister

Private Members' Bills

4. I should be grateful if you would let me have four copies of a list, set out in the form at Annex PM (on white paper), of the Bills your Department considers would be suitable, and can be made ready, for offering to Private Members of the House of Commons who are successful in the ballot for Bills which will take place at the beginning of the 1984/85 session. The purpose of putting together this list now is to avoid a rush of requests for policy clearance and drafting authority at the beginning of the session when there is already considerable pressure of work on Government Bills. Once Departments' proposals have been considered and agreed, it should be possible to carry out preparatory work on at least some of the Bills in advance of the ballot. There is no guarantee that a particular Bill will be taken up - that is a matter for individual Private Members - but if it is not chosen in one session a ready-drafted Bill will remain available for subsequent sessions. Your Department's list should include any Bills which were offered in previous sessions without success and which you would like to offer again.

5. To be suitable for offering to a Private Member a Bill should normally be short, simple, non-financial and not controversial in party political terms. It may also be unsuitable if it is likely to be unpopular with prominent non-parliamentary interest groups, but such proposals may be included on the list provided that the likely reaction of outside groups is explained. There is no need to use a separate page of Annex PM to list each bid, but they should be numbered in the Department's order of priority.

Overlap between lists

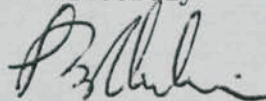
6. Departments may consider that some Bills merit places in the Government programme but would also be suitable for offering to Private Members. If genuinely suitable for both categories they should be included on both lists, with a cross-reference in each entry to the other one. Inclusion in the Private Members' list as well as the Government one will not necessarily lead to the Bill being dropped from the latter by QL Committee; it is important for each entry to make clear whether there are any special timing considerations which could influence the choice which is finally made.

Closing Date

7. I should be grateful if Departments could complete and let me have four copies of forms G and PM by Wednesday 14 December. If you have no candidates please let us have a 'nil' return.

8. I am sending this letter to the Private Secretaries to all Ministers responsible for Departments and copying it to Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office), David Heyhoe (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and David Beamish (Lords Chief Whip's Office) and also to Sir George Engle (First Parliamentary Counsel) and Norman Adamson (First Parliamentary Draftsman for Scotland).

Yours sincerely



S B HICKSON

CATEGORY OF BILL:

PROPOSED GOVERNMENT BILLS 1984/85

NUMBER AND TITLE; PURPOSE	DEPT	POLITICAL ASPECTS	LENGTH; TIMING; PARL. PROCEUDRE	FINANCIAL; MANPOWER; EC IMPLICATIONS	STATE OF READINESS

NOTES ON COMPLETING ANNEX G (DESCRIPTION OF EACH BILL
PROPOSED FOR 1984/85 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME)

GENERAL

Entries should be in note form. If there is space successive items may be listed on the same page; conversely longer items may run over onto a further page.

CATEGORY OF BILL

1. Each Bill should be described as 'essential', 'contingent', 'programme' or 'uncontroversial'. There are notes on these descriptions below. Where different parts of a Bill would fall into different categories, please include brief notes on this at the foot of the Bill's entry in the PURPOSE column.

a. Essential. Bills may be included in this category only if they must be enacted during the Session in question, eg because existing powers or finance would otherwise expire or because of treaty obligations. Please give the reason in the PURPOSE column. A Bill should not be described as essential simply because it has high political priority; that can be made clear in the POLITICAL ASPECTS column. A Bill which is basically essential can sometimes include some non-essential items too. They should be clearly distinguished and before including them Departments should consider their effect on the length of the Bill and the need to avoid controversial provisions which might affect the Bill's prospects of enactment by the required date.

b. Contingent. These are Bills which might during the relevant Session become essential as defined above. Bills which may become desirable for some other reason should be included in the 'programme' or 'uncontroversial' category - with a brief explanation at the bottom of the PURPOSE entry of what they depend on.

c. Programme. These are Bills which can already be identified as being desirable for enactment in the relevant session, have a significant political priority and can be prepared in time.

d. Uncontroversial. Bills which are desirable for enactment in the relevant session but are not expected to be controversial in Parliament. It will be assumed that a Bill in this category is suitable for Second Reading Committee Procedure (see paragraph 8b. below) unless the PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE entry specifically records that it is not, and briefly indicates why. In the case of a Bill which might also be suitable for a Private Member, reference to this should be made in the PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE column and a full entry for the Bill should also be made in the separate schedule proposing Bills suitable for offering to Private Members (Annex PM).

NUMBER AND TITLE

2. Within each category, please number your Bills in the order in which your Department would like to give them priority. As regards the title, a provisional wording is quite acceptable.

PURPOSE

3. Please list the various topics to be covered by the Bill, briefly indicating the purpose in each case. This list should cover all the substantive topics likely to be included. Because of their impact on drafting capacity and parliamentary handling, the business managers and other members of Legislation Committee are likely to resist attempts to make substantial additions later on.

DEPARTMENT

4. It is sufficient to use the short form: eg "DHSS", "DTp".

POLITICAL ASPECTS

5. Please state briefly what, if any, firm public commitments have been given by the Government about the Bill's introduction or timing. Please also cover briefly -

- a. its likely reception in Parliament, including whether it is likely to arouse particular interest in the House of Lords;
- b. what the attitude of the official Opposition is likely to be;
- c. whether it is likely to be controversial politically or for any other reason;
- d. whether there is pressure for the Bill from groups representing particular interests;
- e. whether it is likely to appeal to or be strongly opposed by any particular sections of the community.

LENGTH

6. An estimate of the length of the Bill is needed so that the demands on drafting capacity and Parliamentary time can be assessed at the earliest possible stage. It will not normally be possible to give an accurate forecast of the number of clauses and schedules, but some indication such as 'very short' (not more than 4 clauses), 'short' (5-12 clauses), 'medium' (13-25 clauses), 'substantial' (26-50 clauses) or 'long' (over 50 clauses) would be useful. If the Bill would be short but the schedules large please say so. Where a Bill would cover more than one distinct topic, please indicate roughly what proportion of the Bill would be devoted to each topic.

TIMING

7. For 'essential' and 'contingent' Bills, please give with reasons the date by which Royal Assent is needed. For other Bills, please give a target date only if Royal Assent is essential or desirable before the end of the session. Please make it clear in each case whether Royal Assent by a particular date is essential - eg because borrowing limits will otherwise be exceeded - or desirable but not essential.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

8. A Bill may be suitable for special forms of Parliamentary procedure. Please state whether it might be suitable for any of the following -

- a. Introduction in the House of Lords;
- b. Second Reading Committee procedure in the House of Commons - that is, the Bill is likely to be accepted on all sides of the House as uncontroversial and of little or no political significance (there is no need to mention this specifically in the case of Bills categorised as 'uncontroversial');
- c. Scottish or Welsh Grand Committee procedure in the House of Commons;
- d. Offering to a Private Member successful in the Ballot - that is short, simple, non-controversial in party political terms and without significant financial implications. (In such a case a full entry for the Bill should also be made in the separate schedule dealing with Bills suitable for Private Members - Annex PM.)

If it is thought that a Bill will or may be hybrid, please say so.

FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS

9. Please indicate the effect on central and local government expenditure and manpower of the proposed Bill for the PES period and whether PES provision has been made for any necessary expenditure. Any separate implications for the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) should also be mentioned, especially if they affect the date by which Royal Assent is required (see also paragraph 7 above on TIMING).

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC) IMPLICATIONS

10. Please say whether the Bill is required to fulfil any European Community (EC) commitment. If so, any relevant timing considerations should also be mentioned under TIMING.

STATE OF READINESS

11. We need to have the best possible estimates of -
- a. when Ministers' collective policy clearance will be sought (ie from the appropriate Ministerial Cabinet Committee). Please indicate specifically those areas of policy which are not yet settled or on which policy decisions may be protracted;
 - b. when firm instructions will be delivered to Parliamentary Counsel. (If it is proposed to deliver instructions in instalments or at different times for different topics please give details); and
 - c. when the Bill is expected to be ready for introduction.

CONFIDENTIAL

It is important to have realistic estimates to enable Ministers to plan the use of Parliamentary time. Over-optimistic timetables are unhelpful all round. Please be as specific as you can - indicating where possible 'early', 'mid' or 'late' when naming a month. In cases of doubt, earliest and latest dates should be given for each stage. Account should be taken of Parliamentary Counsel's absence on leave (normally for the whole of August).

Cabinet Office

November 1983

CATEGORY OF BILL: PROGRAMME

PROPOSED GOVERNMENT BILLS 1984/85

NUMBER AND TITLE; PURPOSE	DEPT	POLITICAL ASPECTS	LENGTH; TIMING; PARL. PROCEUDRE	FINANCIAL; MANPOWER; EC IMPLICATIONS	STATE OF READINESS
<p>3. ROADS (SCOTLAND)</p> <p>To bring existing roads legislation up-to-date by (i) re-enacting in modern form provisions of Burgh Police (Scotland) Acts 1892 and 1903 and local legislation especially on construction, use, maintenance and expenditure; (ii) implementing certain roads recommendations of Stodart Committee; (iii) replicating some England and Wales provisions in Highways Act 1980. Also to pave way for consolidation of Scottish legislation.</p>	SO	<p style="text-align: center;">E X A M P L E</p> <p>Promised for some years; 1982 commitment in House to 'forthcoming Roads Bill'. Opposition unlikely to resist; other members probably neutral except on snow clearing. Local authorities have urged legislation. [Delay to a later session would require renewal of an order and attract criticism.]</p>	<p><u>Long:</u> up to 100 cl., but schedules may replace some.</p> <p><u>Timing of Royal Assent</u> - no special considerations.</p> <p><u>Parl. Procedure</u> - suitable for Lords introduction and Scottish Grand Committee.</p>	<p><u>Financial</u> Requirement for private developers to install lighting will save local authorities £1.5 to £2m per annum; possible duty to clear snow could cost £1m initially and £2.5m per annum. Net increase to be met from within Scottish roads and transport PES.</p> <p><u>Manpower</u> - no net change.</p> <p><u>EC</u> - no implications</p>	<p><u>Policy</u> Approved 29.4.82 by H correspondence.</p> <p><u>Instructions</u> probably mid-April</p> <p><u>Introduction</u> late Oct/ early Nov.</p>

PROPOSED PRIVATE MEMBER HANDOUT BILLS 1984/85

NUMBER AND TITLE; PURPOSE	DEPT	LENGTH	INTEREST GROUPS AFFECTED AND LIKELY ATTITUDES	ANY FINANCIAL, MANPOWER OR EC ASPECT	POLICY APPROVAL: WHEN AND WHERE OBTAINED/ TO BE SOUGHT



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CHMC
 Lord President of the Council
 68 Whitehall
 London SW1

7 November 1983.

Dear Willie.

Tony Newton wrote to you on 2 November about Robert Wareing's Bill.

Since then there have been discussions through the usual channels about the possibility of the Opposition supporting an attempt to persuade Robert Wareing to withdraw his Bill. But it is apparent that such concessions as we could offer are very unlikely to be sufficient to convince the Bill's supporters that they merit withdrawing the Bill. I am forced to the conclusion that the only course of action therefore is for the Government to attempt to block the Bill.

Copies go to the Prime Minister, Members of 'H' Committee, Norman Tebbit, Grey Gowrie and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Norman Fowler

NORMAN FOWLER

Parliament,
legislation,
pt 11

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E7 N. 11/1983

CONFIDENTIAL



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

7 November 1983

Dear Michael

A
7/11

POLLUTION (PROTECTION OF FOOD AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT) BILL

Thank you for your letter of 2 November. I certainly agree that it would be sensible to seek policy approval now for a Bill which could then be held in reserve. I look forward to seeing your paper to H, although, as you will well appreciate, agreement will imply no commitment to legislation at any particular time.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of the Cabinet and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten signature]

The Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

CONFIDENTIAL

Parliament,
Legislation,
PT 11

-7 NOV 1983



GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION(i) Second Reading

Coal Industry
 Data Protection (L)
 Education (Grants and Awards)
 Oil Taxation
 Police and Criminal Evidence
 Restrictive Trade Practices (Stock Exchange)
 Trade Union

[Handwritten initials]
[Handwritten initials]

(ii) Standing Committee

Housing and Building Control
 Prevention of Terrorism
 Telecommunications
 Tenants' Rights, etc (Scotland) Amendment

(iii) Orders and Regulations

	<u>Date Laid</u>	<u>Whether Controversial</u>	<u>Date Required</u>
Access to the Countryside(N.I.)	27/10	No	By Christmas
Consumer Credit	3/11	No	By mid Dec.
* Development Bank (2 Orders)	8/7	No	Early November
Housing (Scotland)	26/10	No	A.S.A.P.
Legal Advice and Assistance	31/10	No	A.S.A.P.
* Maximum Number of Judges	24/10	No	By 11/11
Sheep Variable Premium	15/7	No	For debate 7/11
* VAT	27/7	No	A.S.A.P.

* S.I. Committee

Lords

Agricultural Holdings (L)

British Shipbuilders (Borrowing Powers)

Foreign Limitation Periods (L)

Fosdyke Bridge (L)

∅ Foster Children (Scotland) (L)

Matrimonial and Family Proceedings (L)

Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) (L)

Occupiers' Liability (L)

Petroleum Royalites (Relief)

∅ Consolidation

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (8)

Appropriation (No.2) 1983

Car Tax 1983

Companies (Beneficial Interests) 1983

Finance (No.2) 1983

International Monetary Arrangements 1983

Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers) 1983

Medical 1983

Value Added Tax 1983

to seek early policy approval for the Bill, not its immediate introduction: if you have no objection, my aim would be to put a paper to H Committee within the next few weeks.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of Cabinet and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours
Michael*

MICHAEL JOPLING

12 JUL 1983
LIBRARY



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH

cc NO

From the Minister

CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CH MC
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

JD-2/12

2 November 1983

My Dear Willie

POLLUTION (PROTECTION OF FOOD AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT) BILL

Thank you for your letter of 11 September, in which you suggested that we might defer any further discussion of this Bill pending the outcome of the review of the emergency powers legislation.

I fully understand your preference, as a business manager, for a single piece of legislation rather than a series of separate measures. However, I see that the Prime Minister has now accepted Leon Brittan's view that his proposals for amending the Emergency Powers Act 1920 - which in any case touch upon situations quite different from those envisaged in my proposed Bill - should merely be held in reserve.

It seems to me therefore that we ought now to consider my proposals on their own merits, and I should say straightaway that I understand the concerns expressed by some of our colleagues over the possible timing of the Bill, particularly in relation to such issues as the sea dumping of radioactive waste and the Sizewell Enquiry.

However, it is possible that a serious incident could arise, exposing the deficiencies in our present powers and leading to considerable criticism and immediate public demand for new legislation. We would be in a better position to deal with this if we had a Bill already drafted and ready for introduction. I would therefore like

/to seek early policy

CONFIDENTIAL



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522

G.T.N. 2915

*From the Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and
Minister for the Disabled*

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CH MC
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AT

-2 NOV. 1983

Dear Lord President,

CHRONICALLY SICK AND DISABLED PERSONS ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Thank you for your letter of 18 October.

As the promoters of Robert Wareing's Bill are likely to marshal their support more effectively than was the case with Donald Stewart's Bill, as it is likely to draw support from some Government supporters as well as the Opposition, and as it will probably contain elements to which we cannot strongly object, I have given very serious thought to the possible courses of action open to the Government. Nevertheless, I feel we have no option but to try and ensure that the Bill fails to secure a Second Reading. The replies which I have received from other colleagues, since your letter, endorse that view.

There is nothing we can realistically offer which will persuade the Bill's sponsors to drop those parts of the Bill which are unacceptable - particularly the anti-discrimination clauses. And it is undoubtedly the case that a Bill of this nature, if it were allowed to Committee Stage, would be very hard to control and a continuous source of serious embarrassment to the Government over the coming months.

As the unanimous view seems to be in favour of blocking the Bill if we can, I do not think 'H' Committee need discuss it further at this stage. We will aim to present a paper to the 'L' Committee meeting on 9 November on the tactics to be adopted.

I have in mind that to minimise support for the Bill we should concentrate in the Second Reading Debate on the philosophical and practical objections to anti-discrimination legislation and a Disablement Commission (on broadly the lines followed by Hugh Rossi for the Stewart Bill), whilst putting up a robust defence of the measures we have taken as a Government to help disabled people. Clearly the case for the Bill stands or falls on the discrimination provisions; the other material we expect to be included (and some of which is not so objectionable) is essentially subsidiary.

CONFIDENTIAL

E.P.

CONFIDENTIAL

If, by any mischance, we were to fail to prevent a Second Reading on 18 November, then I agree with Lynda Chalker that we would need to re-examine our options. This would possibly necessitate further consideration by 'H' Committee.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to members of 'H' Committee, to Norman Tebbit, to Grey Gowrie and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,

Cowan Brown

PP TONY NEWTON

*(Agreed by Mr. Newton
and signed in his absence)*

SPECIAL NOTE

THE NEXT PAGES ARE GLUED
TOGETHER CAPTURED IMAGE
AS SEEN IN ORIGINAL

Mr. Barclay - for information only.

CF: please keep with pps
on the Ag Holdings Bill

2
1/4

Ref. our conversation last week on the Agricultural Holdings Bill, I wonder if you too have noticed a fairly steady flow of correspondence in the quality press along the lines of the letters below. I have a small stack of articles from journals which echo the message. It seems more than ever likely that Mr. Topling's proposals will receive a mauling in Parliament!

"Times" October 25th

Farmer and tenant system in decline

From Mr Henry Fell and others

Sir, The agricultural landlord and tenant system which has, for the past 150 years and more, been considered to be an essential element in efficient farm and estate management, is in a serious state of decline.

The reasons, and there are many, are not hard to find, but they certainly include the results of much hasty and ill-conceived past legislation. The consequence is that no landowner can be sensibly advised to let a farm when it becomes vacant. He must either sell or retain possession and many estates, either private or institutional, are now farming in hand very large acreages indeed.

The effect on the countryside and the rural infrastructure of successive amalgamations and the subsequent disappearance of family farming is very serious, not just to agriculture but to the nation as a whole.

There is also now a rapid growth in farming arrangements - partnerships, contract or share farming - arrangements which are often short term and designed to circumvent the present unreasonable landlord/tenant legislation, rather than to provide for the land to be farmed in the most effective way.

We believe that unless confidence in the letting of farms can be restored, such arrangements will proliferate over the next decade and will have a further detrimental effect on farming in this country and on the countryside. We therefore greatly welcome the Government's announcement that it will promote legislation in the present parliamentary session to "increase the number of farming tenancies".

Landowners and tenants alike have waited a long time for this opportunity to restore practical logic to agricultural holdings legislation. We cannot expect to have further parliamentary time for many years, so it is particularly important that the minister comes forward with the right formula. Next time will be too late.

The National Farmers' Union and Country Landowners' Association have proposed a useful framework but, in the context of encouraging lettings, it proposed only one major change, the abolition of the two-generation security of tenure for farm tenants.

Now, two years on from the NFU/CLA concordat, it is evident to all of us that unless the basis of that "package" is widened to include measures that will positively create more tenancies and more mobility - retirement, tenancy transfer in readiness for retirement, fiscal inducements to retain small and medium-sized farms, a sound rent formula, and taxation changes that eliminate the discrimination against owners to let their land - the Government will be presiding over an ineffective holding operation at a time when a more imaginative and radical approach could rejuvenate the very foundation of our industry, open up opportunities for the many expensively trained people to whom a tenancy is the only route into farming, and bring new life and vigour to our rural communities.

The responsibility now lies with Parliament. The Minister of Agriculture can be assured of widespread support from within agriculture if he opts for this broad approach. We should, however, be in no doubt whatsoever that the great majority of farmers, landowners and land agents do not believe that the NFU/CLA agreement is any more than a basis on which to build.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY R. FELL,
J. H. ANDERSON,
WELLINGTON,
PEART OF WORKINGTON,
GERAINT HOWELLS,
ROBERT MACLENNAN,
NIGEL H. CLUTTON,
C. R. FERENS,
R. B. WHITTLE,
RICHARD STOREY,
Worlaby House,
Worlaby, Brigg,
South Humberside.

"Times" New 1st

Fear of clash on farm tenancies

From Mr Peter Trumper and others

Sir, We are responsible, between us, for the management of more than two million acres of agricultural land let to tenants; land which is owned by individuals, institutions, charities, pension funds, local authorities and others.

The Agricultural Holdings Bill, just published, contains a large number of much-needed amendments to existing legislation, which we welcome. But the proposal to introduce a new, artificial, legalistic rent formula is bound to lead to bitter dissension between landlord and tenant, which can only do harm to the industry.

The declared intention of the Bill is to encourage landowners to let more farms; in our opinion it will have precisely the opposite effect. No owner can be expected to let a farm if almost all the advantages lie with the tenant. The parallel of what has happened to rented houses is all too obvious.

The landlord and tenant system accounts for more than one third of British agriculture. Almost everyone within the industry thinks that it is very much worth preserving and improving. The rental clause in this Bill will do great damage to it.

Yours faithfully,
PETER TRUMPER (Cluttons),
SIMON GRAY (Smiths Gore),
BRYAN KEATLEY (Humberts),
PETER LEE (Strutt and Parker),
DENZIL NEWTON (Carter Jonas),
FRANCIS PEMBERTON
(Bidwells),
JEREMY WILSON (Savills),
c/o Cluttons,
5 Great College Street,
Westminster, SW1.
October 31.

Bob Young
1.11.83.

RESTRICTED



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

31 October, 1983.

Dogs

The Prime Minister was grateful for the Lord President's minute of 26 October reporting on the discussion at Home and Social Affairs Committee of the Secretary of State for the Environment's proposals on dog licences.

The Prime Minister agrees that a consultation document should be prepared, along the lines discussed by the Committee. She does, however, have some doubts as to whether the proposals for a local authority licensing system would be greeted with approval. She recalls that the idea was strongly criticised in a speech in the House last week on a Ten Minute Rule Bill.

The Prime Minister would be grateful to see a draft of the proposed consultation document in due course.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the members of H Committee and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

David Barclay

Miss Janet Lewis-Jones,
Lord President's Office.

RESTRICTED

PRIME MINISTER

Fluoride in Water

mt
Appropriate Private Offices
told by phone

SMB
31/10

H Committee will be considering on Tuesday options for legislation to clarify the law on addition of fluoride to drinking water. Scottish law on this subject was thrown into some confusion by a judgement given in the Court of Session in June. The Court found that Strathclyde Regional Council had no power to add fluoride in pursuance of their statutory duty "to provide a supply of wholesome water". At the same time the Court made clear that they did not doubt the weight of medical evidence in favour of fluoridation.

Mr. Younger puts forward three options for legislation:

- (a) giving all the water authorities a power to add fluoride;
- (b) giving water authorities a duty to add fluoride if asked to do so by the health authority;
- (c) making it compulsory for all water authorities to add fluoride.

I prefer option (a).

mt

The health Secretaries of State are divided on the merits of these options. Mr. Younger and Mr. Edwards favour option (a). Mr. Jenkin favours option (b) (though he recognises that it would not be feasible in Scotland). And Mr. Prior favours option (c).

Option (a), which would in effect confirm the position as previously understood, would clearly be the least contentious. Option (c) - compulsory fluoridation - would be highly controversial, and even option (b) could meet stiff resistance since:

- (i) it would remove from water authorities an element of discretion which they currently enjoy, and

(ii) leaving the decision solely to health authorities might be seen as compulsion by the back-door, in view of the weight of medical opinion in favour of fluoridation.

DMB

28 October 1983



Prime Minister

PRIME MINISTER

*I doubt the letter
has would be greeted
with approval = the idea
was sharply criticized
in a 10-min
note with 1 speech
last week
p. 6*

*Agree to the preparation of
a consultation document?*

*Would you like to see it
in draft? Mr Penn
and*

*JMB
27/10*

The Home and Social Affairs Committee today discussed the proposals made for the future of dog licences by the Secretary of State for the Environment (H(83)36). We were able to reach agreement in principle on the Environment Secretary's alternative proposal, that the dog licence as it currently exists should be abolished and replaced by a discretionary power for local authorities to institute a system of registration and dog control in their own areas. This system would be financed by a registration fee fixed by the local authority within a maximum limit set by central Government. Such a scheme would require primary legislation and the Environment Secretary recommends that it should form part of the 1984/85 programme. He is prepared to take responsibility for this legislation.

There are a large number of details still to be considered before any public announcement can be made. The Environment Secretary advised us that the local authority associations would not object to this proposal, although clearly they will wish to be reassured about central Government's attitude to its (small) impact on their manpower.

The next stage is for the Secretary of State for the Environment, in consultation with the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to work up proposals and prepare a consultation document setting out in more detail exactly what is proposed. When this is issued there will no doubt be considerable public comment, on which we shall have to take a robust line. However, the existing situation is indefensible and the other alternatives of abolition or an increase in the licence fee both present very serious objections. Whatever reservations we may have about the detail of the present proposal, it does concentrate on the major element of the problem, which is how to control dog nuisance. I think that it is the best solution available to us and we must press ahead. It may be possible to introduce legislation in 1984/85, but the Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee will need to consider this in the context of the programme as a whole.

I am sending a copy of this minute to members of H Committee and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

hollis

Postament - legislative Programme Pt II

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27 OCT 1963

bc Robert Young



Leg. Cmte.

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26 October 1983

From the Private Secretary

FIO (Riffind)

Capt. G@ Arms.

HO (Hurd)

FS-HMT

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS BILL

The Prime Minister was grateful for your Minister's minute of 25 October about the Agricultural Holdings Bill.

The Prime Minister agrees that Legislation Committee should discuss the Bill today and that, subject to that discussion, it should be introduced in the House of Lords tomorrow (27 October). The Prime Minister has noted your Minister's view that it may be possible to refine the rent formula during the passage of the Bill in order to meet some of the criticisms that have been made.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the recipients of yours.

MR. D. BARCLAY

Robert Lowson, Esq.,
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

dg



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

25 October 1983

Dear Patrick,

TEN MINUTE RULE MOTION: CONTROL OF DOG NUISANCE

Thank you for your letter of 20 October about Tony Marlow's ten minute rule motion for Wednesday 26 October.

The timing of this is a little awkward in relation to our H Committee discussion, and I am sure that in the circumstances your proposed approach - not to oppose and to abstain in any vote on tomorrow's motion - is the right one. As regards any necessary action if a Bill is introduced, we will probably need to reflect both on the outcome of today's meeting and on the contents of the Bill itself before deciding what to do. I assume that you will write to me and other interested Ministers, or as necessary bring the matter to L Committee, in advance of any Second Reading date.

I am copying this letter to other members of Legislation Committee, Sir Robert Armstrong and First Parliamentary Counsel.

Yours
John Biffen

JOHN BIFFEN

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
Secretary of State for the Environment

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15 NOV 1983

SWYDDFA GYMREIG

GWYDYR HOUSE

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER

Tel: 01-233 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
01-233 7448 (Linell Union)

Oddi wrth yr Is-Ysgrifennydd Seneddol



WELSH OFFICE

GWYDYR HOUSE

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER

Tel: 01-233 3000 (Switchboard)
01-233 7448 (Direct Line)

From The Parliamentary Under-Secretary

CT/5332/83

25 October 1983

Dear Kenneth

W
26/10

FEMALE CIRCUMCISION: LORD KENNET'S BILL

I have seen a copy of your letter of 18 October to Willie Whitelaw about the handling of Lord Kennet's Bill.

I am content with your proposal that our Lords' spokesman should take the line on the Bill's Second Reading that we are prepared to support it if it can be amended in the way outlined in your letter and should offer Government help in drafting the necessary amendments. I agree too that the Bill should be considered by Legislation Committee on that basis.

Copies of this letter go to members of H Committee and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely

Wyn Roberts

WYN ROBERTS

Kenneth Clarke Esq QC MP
Minister for Health
Department of Health and Social Security
Alexander Fleming House
Elephant and Castle
London SE1



From the Minister

PRIME MINISTER

*agree that
the Bill - of course that doesn't
mean we should not
introduce it. She has not
said we should not
introduce it. It is possible
to have the Bill
introduced. The
Bill is not
the Bill.*

CS 2.9.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH

Prime Minister: Further note from policy unit attached.

Agree the Bill should be introduced as planned on Thursday? (The CLA will have plenty of opportunities to put forward amendments via backbenchers).

25 October 1983

Yes

mt

*DMS
25/10*

My Dear Prime Minister

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS BILL

Your Private Secretary's letter to mine of 24 October asked me to give further consideration to the criticisms of the new rent formula which we are proposing to introduce in the Agricultural Holdings Bill.

I am very well aware of these criticisms, which in the main emanate from institutional owners of agricultural land and their professional agents. The difficulty is that because of the decline in the agricultural tenanted sector, there are now virtually no new lettings. This means that there is really no true open market on which arbitrators can base their assessment of the open market rent, as they are required to do under the present formula. The very high tender rents which are offered for the few tenancies which do become available are far in excess of the rents being paid by sitting tenants for comparable holdings. The result is that arbitrators are currently having to ignore the letter of the present law and fudge the issue by basing their assessments on more pragmatic considerations such as what the holding will produce in the form of profit. The purpose of the new formula, which will require arbitrators to take into account all relevant factors (including the productivity and earning capacity of the holding) is to establish a sound basis for the assessment of rents and restore confidence in the arbitration system.

Opinions differ widely as to the likely effect of the new formula, but the NFU, the CLA and the professional bodies do not believe that it will have any marked effect on the present level of rents.

/We should not ...

We should not in particular experience the same difficulties as under the "Fair Rents" legislation, since the earning capacity concept will provide an important objective assessment of a holding's rental value; a similar measure is not available in the residential lettings sector.

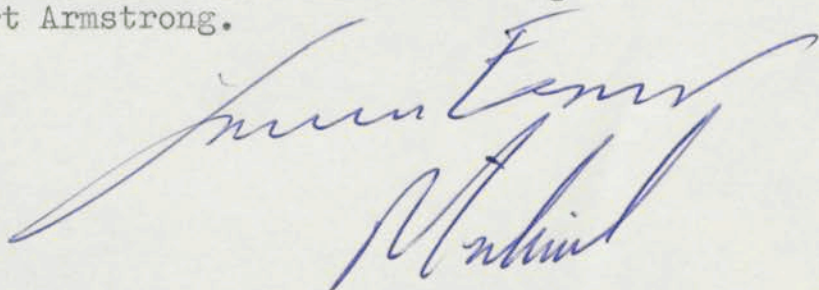
The new rent formula must also be seen as part of an important package of measures agreed between the NFU and CLA and designed to infuse new life into the tenanted system. The agreement still enjoys the full backing of both organisations. The CLA have in particular pressed me very hard to bring forward early implementing legislation because they attach very great importance to the changes on tenancy succession. (The Bill will also provide that the three generation succession arrangements introduced by the Labour Government will not apply to new tenancies). The NFU/CLA agreement is the only possible basis on which new legislation can proceed, and this is why we said in our last manifesto that we would "legislate on these lines at an early opportunity".

I accept that the new legislation will not in itself produce an immediate flood of new lettings. We have never said that it would. It will in particular need to be accompanied by further changes in the taxation arrangements affecting landlords, designed to remove the current fiscal bias against the letting of land. This is no doubt something which I will wish to discuss with the Chancellor in due course. I do however remain convinced that if we are to keep to our manifesto pledge we must stick to the NFU/CLA agreement, an essential part of which is the new rent formula.

The point about the rent formula which is of particular concern to you (discounting scarcity) is not something entirely new to agricultural holdings law; the concept was in fact incorporated in the Agricultural Holdings (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1983. I am sure that the proposed England and Wales formula will itself be the subject of the closest scrutiny while the legislation is before Parliament, and I will myself pay very close attention to all of the many arguments which will certainly be put forward. It may well be possible to refine the formula to take account of the concerns which have been expressed to you, but we must not allow this to prejudice the success of the legislation itself, which, as I have already indicated, is based on a very finely balanced package of measures of interest to landlords and tenants alike.

I hope therefore you will agree that L Committee can tomorrow discuss the Bill and that it can be introduced in the House of Lords on 27 October. If we were to delay introduction for further reflection (which I feel would itself be unproductive) there would be serious implications for the organisation of government business in Parliament.

I am copying this minute to the other members of Legislation Committee and Sir Robert Armstrong.



MICHAEL JOPLING

PARLIAMENT & Legislation
Pt II

20 JUN 1983

11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30
31

COMMUNIST

PRIME MINISTER

Agricultural Holdings Bill

The logic of Mr. Jopling's reply of 25 October is not compelling, but he makes some valid practical points.

As to logic:

1. He admits that "opinions differ widely as to the likely effect of the new [rent] formula" - surely a basic flaw after protracted consultation?
2. Mr. Jopling suggests that the present level of rents is unlikely to change markedly. If so why will lettings increase? (The other main provision of the Bill, i.e. the reduction in tenancy succession, will not by itself bring about more than a marginal incentive for a landowner to let.)
3. He mentions the disparity between the farm rent formula recently enacted for Scotland and that proposed for England and Wales. There is no good reason for such a disparity.

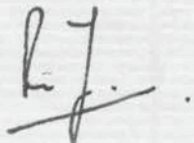
As to practical considerations:

4. Mr. Jopling is right to contend that delaying the introduction of the Bill at the eleventh hour and fifty-ninth minute would be disruptive to the organisation of Government business.
5. He is also right to point out that the Manifesto refers specifically to the NFU/CLA package.

/ 6. He

6. He is right to recognise that back bench pressure in both Houses could yet "refine" the rent formula. (He shows commendable restraint, too, in not pointing out that the CLA has largely bungled its end of the negotiation!)

On balance, it seems sensible to introduce the Bill as planned on 27 October, but to leave Mr. Jopling in no doubt that he should be very receptive to suggested improvements in the rent formula.



ROBERT YOUNG

25 October 1983

Palmit: Ugenturk Proq Pt 11

8.8

COMMENTS



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

FIVE SH

cc: Lord President's office
LPS LAD
LCO Part Sec. HMT
SO M/s (FCO)
NO M/s (HO)
CDL Fin Sec HMT
ADD Capt of Genl Army
24 October, 1983
CO
HMT
POWER UNIT

Agricultural Holdings Bill

The Prime Minister has seen a copy of the Legislation Committee paper on the Agricultural Holdings Bill (L (83) 102).

The Prime Minister has heard it said that the proposals embodied in the Bill may be insufficient to achieve the increase in farm tenancies which was envisaged in the Manifesto. In particular, she is aware of fears that the proposed new rent formula (which she understands discounts the scarcity value of land) may have the same effect on agricultural tenancies as the "Fair Rents" legislation had on residential lettings.

The Prime Minister would be grateful if your Minister could give further consideration to these criticisms, in consultation with the Chancellor and other colleagues, and report the outcome to her in due course.

I am sending copies of this letter to Judith Simpson (H.M. Treasury), Colin Jones (Welsh Office), to the Private Secretaries to other members of Legislation Committee and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

DAVID BARCLAY

R. Lawson, Esq.,
Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food

JA



CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233

24 October 1983

DS
24/10

Dear Private Secretary

LEGISLATION IN THE 1984/85 SESSION

I am writing to give you advance notice that the process of putting together a Government legislative programme for the following Session will start rather earlier this year than has been the practice in the past. We intend to write formally early in November requesting by mid-December details of Departmental bids for places in the 1984/85 programme. We will simultaneously be asking Departments to identify subjects on which Bills might be offered to Private Members successful in next Session's ballot - the aim being to reduce congestion of drafting and other preparatory work at the beginning of that Session.

I am sending this letter to the Private Secretaries to all Ministers responsible for Departments and copying it to Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office), David Heyhoe (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office), David Beamish (Lord Chief Whip's Office), Brian Shillito (First Parliamentary Counsel's Office) and Fiona Rodger (Office of the First Parliamentary Draftsman for Scotland).

Yours sincerely

S B Hickson
S B HICKSON

Private Secretary to -
Prime Minister

Prime Minister: The Bill is

21 October 1983
Policy Unit

PRIME MINISTER

described in Mr Jopling's
paper for Legislation Cttee, attached.

FARM TENANCIES - HAVE WE GOT IT RIGHT?

DMS
21/10

(1)
J

Our Manifesto states that "the National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners' Association have agreed on the best way to make more farm tenancies available for young people. We shall legislate on these lines at an early opportunity". A draft Agricultural Holdings Bill will be introduced into the Lords on 27 October.

As we move closer to legislation, landowners are realising that their representatives did not negotiate forcibly enough, and that farm lettings will reduce in number if the Bill goes through. Although belated, their arguments are persuasive.

The main provisions of the Bill are:

1. For new lettings, to give the tenant security for his lifetime only, not for two successive generations as the Labour Government's Act of 1976 provided. This is a modest step in the right direction.
2. For all lettings, to redefine "rent properly payable" in such a way as to discount the scarcity value of land - a vital ingredient of "open market rent" which is the main yardstick in use at present. This is at odds with recent legislation for Scotland, which retains the open market concept. Worse still, it feels uncomfortably similar to "Fair Rents", which caused residential lettings virtually to dry up.

Even at the eleventh hour, would you like to ask Michael Jopling and Nigel to check that we are right to proceed as planned?

FERDINAND MOUNT

fm

Les out



PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister (2)

The map not ready until Autumn 1984. Work on CDA Bill to proceed. When drafted a decision to be taken on whether to wait for RDG provisions if nearly ready, or to proceed without them.

AT 21/10

You will have seen Cecil Parkinson's letter of 10 October to John Biffen and his reply of 17 October agreeing to the drafting of legislation to introduce changes to the RDG scheme. Because of doubts over when a revised Assisted Area map might be available, E(A) agreed that the date of the introduction of legislation should not be decided until the map options had been considered. We have now considered the options and it might be helpful if I set out the position on the timing of the map as we now see it.

2 The conclusion we have come to, for the reasons set out later in this note, is that we can not have a new Assisted Area map until Autumn 1984. The exact timing depends on how quickly we can get an agreed map. At present this is based on out-of-date Travel-to-Work-Areas (TTWAs). Information from the 1981 censuses of population and employment is expected to bring important changes in TTWA boundaries when they are revised next year, as they are bound to be, but all the necessary information will not be available until next July, and realistically that means that we shall not have an agreed new Assisted Area map based on the revised TTWAs until the Autumn.

3 I have considered all the options for bringing forward completion of the new map from Autumn next year. The least unattractive option was to drop TTWAs and instead use local



authority boundaries as the basis of the map. But I am convinced that this, like all the other options, would result in a map so unsatisfactory and so hard for us to defend that they should be discarded.

4 If we have legislation this Session we will be in a position to introduce the new scheme as soon as the map is available. We do not need to decide now the questions of rates of grant and number of tiers. Options for these will of course be covered in the White Paper and one of the advantages of the proposed timetable is that there will be time to consult on them and the map.

5 As to timing of the legislation, we are content to go along with John Biffen's proposal that we consider this further when the CDA Bill is ready. At that time, we will consider the options taking account of the views expressed in response to this letter.

6 I am copying this letter to all Members of E(A) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

N7

N T

21st October 1983

PRIME MINISTERDOGS

H Committee returns on Tuesday to the subject of dog licences (see attached paper).

The Secretary of State for the Environment would still prefer to raise the dog licence fee rather than abolish the system. But his paper concedes that a majority of the Committee it likely to prefer abolition, as they did last time.

As a compromise, he would accept abolition of the licensing system plus a new system of local registration run by local authorities (who would set the registration fees, within a maximum prescribed by the Secretary of State).

This would require primary legislation, which the Secretary of State would wish to see in 1984/85.

Would you like the Lord President to minute you about H Committee's conclusions?

Yes please
md

DMS

20 October, 1983

Note: Minute commissioned from Lord President. Cabinet Office and DoE informed by telephone.

DMS
24/10



JF4568

PS/ Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

C/NO.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
1-19 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0ET
TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-215 5422
SWITCHBOARD 01-215 7877

19 October 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

David Heyhoe Esq
Private Secretary to the
Rt Hon John Biffen MP
Lord Privy Seal
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

NBM

18/20/10

Dear David,

CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
GRANTS

The Secretary of State has asked me to thank the Lord Privy Seal for his very helpful letter of 17 October. We are happy to proceed as suggested.

2 I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of the Prime Minister, other members of the Cabinet, the Chief Whip, Sir Robert Armstrong and to First Parliamentary Counsel.

Yours sincerely,
Ruth Thompson

RUTH THOMPSON
Private Secretary

Partament : Leg boy Pt 11



20 OCT 1983

File

MR TURNBULL18 October 1983CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CDA)

Mr Parkinson has provided a rationale for maintaining the CDA, on a more tightly controlled budget (£200,000) and with more focused objectives.

These proposals seem sensible to us:

- (i) a decision to wind-up the CDA would be difficult to present politically: it would appear both small-minded and ideologically motivated in view of the CDA's objectives and the track record that could be claimed for it;
- (ii) the CDA's activities are (surprisingly) consistent with the Government's philosophy: it encourages the formation of new businesses, and more generally, the self-reliant attitudes among employees which inspire co-operative initiatives (the average size of a co-operative is ten employees);
- (iii) the activities of the CDA correspond more closely to our idea of what is a sensible industrial policy than that pursued by the DTI - it offers useful advice, by people who know what they are talking about, to people who genuinely need it, rather than dispensing public money on fashionable technologies, or in the "national interest".

The only concern we have is that the CDA might take on the role of spokesman for the co-operative business. Its remit should be clearly confined to the provision of advice. The reply might make this point.

NICHOLAS OWEN



CONFIDENTIAL

FCU SH



10 DOWNING STREET

cc:

MAPP ✓	CSOV ✓
SOV ✓	CD ✓
WO ✓	D/Emp ✓
DTI ✓	D/Energy ✓
PO ✓	Trans ✓
HMT ✓	NIO ✓
	CO ✓

17 October, 1983

From the Private Secretary

Co-operative Development Agency (CDA)

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's minute of 10 October setting out CDA's record. In the light of this, she agrees that legislation should be introduced to extend the life of the CDA. She has also noted the proposal that this legislation be used as a vehicle for legislation on RDG provisions and is content with this, subject to the views of colleagues.

I am copying this minute to the Private Secretaries to members of EA, the Lord Priy Seal and Sir Robert Armstrong.

ANDREW TURNBULL

M. C. McCarthy, Esq.,
 Department of Trade and Industry

CONFIDENTIAL

RM



*With the Compliments
of the
Lord Privy Seal*

CONFIDENTIAL



Prime Minister ②
To hok

4-110

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

AT
17/10

17 October 1983

Dear Minister,

mt

COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CDA) AND
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (RDG)

Thank you for your letter of 10 October 1983 asking for drafting authority to employ Parliamentary Counsel to draft RDG legislation. I am happy to give my authority for this to be done.

As far as the more general issue of how to enact this legislation is concerned, I must confess to lingering doubts about the timetable. There are two points here. I do not wish to see any delay in the introduction of the CDA Bill.

Secondly, I think that there will be grave problems in piloting the RDG legislation through the House if decisions have not then been taken about rates of grant or the areas to be covered. As the minutes of E(A) Committee record, there was some doubt as to whether it would be wise even to try to do this. Could I suggest therefore that you ask your officials to proceed with full speed with the CDA Bill, while at the same time making what progress you can on the RDG legislation. When the CDA Bill is ready for introduction, we could then perhaps reassess the situation with a view to seeing whether at that stage it seems reasonable to delay the CDA Bill or whether we should consider other measures.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of the Cabinet, the Chief Whip, Sir Robert Armstrong and First Parliamentary Counsel.

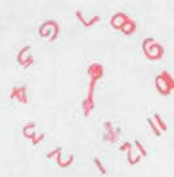
John Biffen

JOHN BIFFEN

The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP
Department of Trade and Industry

CONFIDENTIAL

PARLIAMENT
SEMINAR
P 11



17 OCT 1983



PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister [Ⓢ]

✓ NO

Agree a satisfactory case has been made out for retaining CDA? (CDA Bill is proposed vehicle for RDG legislation - see attached letter)

AT
10/10

CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CDA)

Yes

Your Private Secretary's letter of 19 September asks about the record of the co-operatives the CDA has set up.

2 The main facts which I should stress in considering the record of the co-operatives assisted by the CDA are as follows:

i) the total number of co-operatives has grown from 300 in 1980 to 700 in March 1983; of the 250 co-operatives formed since the CDA was reorganised on 1 October 1981, 140 have been directly assisted by the CDA;

ii) since the reorganisation, 191 co-operatives in all have been assisted by the CDA, over a third of which lie in manufacturing and construction; the remainder in the service sector include a number of high technology companies;

iii) the failure rate for co-operatives assisted by the CDA (8 per cent) is significantly lower than that for small businesses generally (which is 12 per cent);

iv) in every case the CDA has mobilised private sector

11 OCT 1983





money and support. It has not looked to public funds;

v) the public sector cost of the CDA of £200,000 per annum attracts a further £100,000 of support from the private sector per annum;

vi) in terms of cost per job, the direct annual cost of £200,000 compares with 1,220 jobs in co-operatives directly assisted by the CDA and formed since its reorganisation.

3 I have no wish to prolong any quango unless its usefulness and efficiency can be demonstrated. I am convinced, however, that the CDA, which is currently handling twice as many enquiries as before its restructuring with half as many staff, represents a useful means of promoting employment and represents a small but significant addition to our general policy towards small businesses. I therefore believe its record in stimulating enterprise merits retaining it. I am copying this minute to Members of E(A) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

C P

10 October 1983

Department of Trade and Industry

Parliament : Log Prog Pt 11

NO



DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
1-19 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0ET
TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-215 5422
SWITCHBOARD 01-215 7877

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

10 October 1983

The Rt Hon John Biffen MP
Lord Privy Seal
Privy Council Office
London SW1A 2AT

Prime Minister ⁽⁴⁾

Agreement to X is sought
in Mr Parkinson's minute of
10 October

Agreed
MB

BT
12/10

Dear John,

CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CDA) AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (RDG)

Thank you for your letter of 22 September. I have delayed replying until the policy decisions on RDG became clear.

2 Following our discussions in E(A) last Thursday we now have a sufficient policy basis on which to proceed with legislation. Although we still have to decide on when legislation might be introduced, in the light of further consideration of the options for revising the Assisted Areas map, I am conscious that, so far, the only legislative opportunity which appears available this Session is that of combining RDG provisions with the CDA Bill. Quite simply, if we do not take this opportunity, we shall not be able to progress this Session with a policy initiative to which we attach importance, and which offer the possibility of significant savings.

X | 3 I have written to the Prime Minister with a view to finalising the CDA policy and would hope that we can still introduce the CDA Bill in November. At this stage it is not clear that the RDG legislation can be introduced at the same time but equally it is a possibility I would not wish to discount. If we are to introduce these two pieces of legislation together we need to proceed with the more complex drafting of the RDG provisions quickly. I would therefore be grateful if, despite the uncertainty over timing, you would give your approval for Parliamentary Counsel to draft the RDG legislation. Instructions to the Counsel are nearly complete and we can send them directly we have your approval.

4 I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of the Cabinet, Sir Robert Armstrong and First Parliamentary Counsel.

*Yours
Sincerely,
Leal*



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref: J/PSO/15045/83

Your ref: *ms*

Prime Minister

SS/Env supports CDA. The report on CDA's record of achievements which you called for should arrive shortly. E5 061 00

AT
6/10
Dear Cecil,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to the Prime Minister of 13 September about the future of the Co-operative Development Agency.

I am happy to support your proposal that it should continue with little change to its current level of activities. The CDA has provided valuable advice about the role of co-operatives in helping to regenerate the inner cities and I would very much like to see this work continue.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Your ever
Patrick

PATRICK JENKIN

The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP

Parliamentary
Legislation
P411

8 0 8
11

15 OCT 1983



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

My ref: 256/70/03

27 September 1983

My dear Willie:

Illegitimacy

In your letter of 1st August you gave the approval of H Committee to my proposals for reform of the law relating to illegitimacy, subject to the satisfactory resolution of the points raised by the Home Secretary in his letter of 29th July. Among these was the suggestion that priority should be given to the implementation of the custodianship provisions in Part II of the Children Act 1975. In this he is supported by Norman Fowler, who pointed out in his letter of 8th August that the resources required for this step are more modest than those which would be needed for the Family Law Reform Bill.

I have given careful thought to the question of priorities and to the resource implications of the Bill generally, bearing in mind also the doubts expressed by Peter Rees in his letter of 10th August. My conclusion is that the custodianship provisions should take precedence over illegitimacy and should have the prior charge upon such spare capacity as I can conjure up out of my existing resources. Regrettably the extra squeeze which would be needed to accommodate the illegitimacy provisions as well is beyond me at present. This is a great pity. The number of additional staff and registrars that would be required is not large and the proposed Bill is generally agreed to be a worthy piece of law reform. I have therefore considered another possible course, namely, changing the law subject to a delayed commencement. But it is not very satisfactory to drag out the implementation of primary legislation in the way that the Children Act 1975 has been dragged out and, subject to whatever you and others may say, my reluctant preference is for shelving the whole project for the time being.

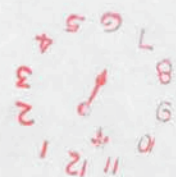
The Right Honourable
The Viscount Whitelaw, C.H., M.C.,
House of Lords.

cont...2

I am sending copies of this to members of H Committee,
to First Parliamentary Counsel and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

yrs :

A handwritten signature in cursive script, consisting of several loops and flourishes, positioned below the text "yrs :".



29 SEP 1983



CONFIDENTIAL

~~CC NO~~
2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

NBPM
MS 28/9

26 September 1983

Dear Secretary of State

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to the Prime Minister of 13 September about the future of the Cooperative Development Agency.

I am happy to support your proposal that it should continue with little change to its current level of activities. The CDA has provided valuable advice about the role of cooperatives in helping to regenerate the inner cities and I would very much like to see this work continue. I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely

Helen Ghosh

PATRICK JENKIN

(approved by the
Secretary of State and
signed in his absence)

CONFIDENTIAL

PARLIAMENT : Legislation

A 11

28 SEP 1988





**With the Compliments
of the
Lord Privy Seal**



CC NO

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

MBPM
MS 22/9

22 September 1983

Dear Genl,

COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CDA)

I have seen your minute of 13 September to the Prime Minister recording your conclusion that the life of the Cooperative Development Agency should be extended.

I have no comments on the substance of this decision, but I am concerned about the point which you make in your penultimate paragraph regarding the possible inclusion of legislation dealing with regional development grants. As I said in my letter of 16 August, Cabinet agreed only to consider at a later date the inclusion of the RDG legislation in the Cooperative Development Agency Bill. We are now in a position to see the implications of the policy decision on CDA, but, as I understand it, some way from any policy conclusions on RDGs. I share strongly your desire to have the Cooperative Development Agency Bill introduced in November, but I am concerned that inclusion of the RDG provisions may cause delay. Perhaps you could let me know how you see further progress and in particular when you would see a combined Bill being ready for introduction. We could then look again at whether there is any possibility of combining these two pieces of legislation.

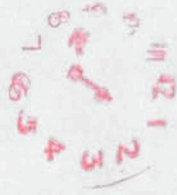
I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of the Cabinet, Sir Robert Armstrong and First Parliamentary Counsel.

John Biffen

JOHN BIFFEN

The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

PARLIAMENT. Legislation
Pt II



2 - 1985



Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG

GWYDYR HOUSE

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER

Tel: 01-233 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
01-233 7448 (Llinell Union)

Oddi wrth yr Is-Ysgrifennydd Seneddol



NSPM

ms 22/9

WELSH OFFICE

GWYDYR HOUSE

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER

Tel: 01-233 3000 (Switchboard)
01-233 7448 (Direct Line)

From The Parliamentary Under-Secretary

Our Ref: CT/7431/83

21 September 1983

Yn eiddo,

In Nicholas Edwards' absence on a business visit to the United States, I am responding to your copy letter of 13 September to the Prime Minister on the future of the Co-operative Development Agency.

I am content that you should circulate a paper to 'L' Committee proposing the introduction of a Bill for a modestly expanded CDA.

Copies of this letter go to recipients of yours.

Yn eiddo

Wyn

WYN ROBERTS

Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
1 Victoria Street
LONDON
SW1A 0ET

PARLIAMENT : Legislati : 111

CONFIDENTIAL



So

10 DOWNING STREET

19 September, 1983.

From the Private Secretary

Co-operative Development Agency (CDA)

The Prime Minister was grateful for your Secretary of State's minute of 13 September, in which he set out his proposals for the future of the Co-operative Development Agency.

The Prime Minister has commented that she suspects that this Agency is superfluous. She would be grateful to know what is the record of the co-operatives it has set up.

BF

M. G. SCHOLAR

Jonathan Spencer, Esq.,
Department of Trade and Industry.

CONFIDENTIAL

So



JF4293

I suspect this Agency is superfluous. What is the necessity of the co-operatives it has set up?

Prime Minister ①

Agree these proposals?

MLS 16/9

PRIME MINISTER

CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CDA)

On 7 July, Cabinet agreed that a Co-operative Development Agency Bill should form part of the legislative programme for 1983-84.

I am now writing to let you and other colleagues know of my proposals for the future of the CDA. A note on the CDA is ... attached.

2 The last review of the CDA was only two years ago and therefore it has not had much time to demonstrate fully its value since then. Nevertheless, I consider that the Agency's performance to date suggests that it should become an effective force in helping to stimulate the growth of viable industrial co-operatives. It now has better management; is pursuing clear objectives that we have endorsed; is attracting increased private sector support; and is being run under tight financial control.

3 The Agency has examined the possibility of becoming financially independent of Government. I have had to accept its view that earning opportunities are so limited that such independence is not presently possible.



4 In the light of the Agency's performance I propose to extend the life of the Agency. The decision would recognise the CDA's potential for continued promotion of industrial co-operatives, with the emphasis on job creation, and would be consistent with the Government's support for agricultural co-operatives and local enterprise agencies.

5 In extending its life I propose to give it the additional functions of a distribution channel for EC grants and trusteeship. It would also be enabled to provide training. However, in order to keep the pressure on the CDA to maximise its own earning powers and to seek increased support from the private sector, its funding should remain at the current level. Such funding would be on a more secure and practical footing than under the present arrangements; these have necessitated two major reviews and associated legislative action in less than five years of the Agency's establishment. I therefore propose that the Agency should be funded for a six year period, with an announcement in the House that this would be at a rate of no more than £200,000 per annum.

6 If colleagues agree I will circulate a paper to Members of L proposing the introduction of a Bill on the above lines in November. You will recall that colleagues also agreed that this Bill could provide a vehicle for certain changes in regional



policy legislation. We will need to consider this separately in due course.

7 I am copying this letter to Members of E(A) [redacted] and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

C.P.

C P

13 September 1983

Encl

Department of Trade & Industry
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY - NOTE

Following the report of a Working Party drawn from the Co-operative movement, the CDA was set up with All Party support by means of the Co-operative Development Agency Act 1978. The CDA's basic purpose is to **promote** the principles and practices of co-operation generally and to be able to be the representative body for the whole co-operative movement. The Act empowers the Secretary of State to make grants to the Agency up to a ceiling of £900K, with provision for further grants, made by Order, up to a total limit £1.5M. Following a review of the Agency in 1981 it was decided to extend its term and the additional funding of £600K was approved by the House of Commons on 22 July 1981. This funding will be exhausted by 31 August 1984. Legislation, either winding up the Agency or extending its life will be required to be enacted by that date.

2. In assessing the CDA's performance in 1981 we concluded that the Agency had been moderately successful in pursuing its objectives but that there was scope for improvement, particularly in its management. Further funding was made conditionally. Firstly the Agency had to improve its effectiveness assisted by the appointment of a new smaller Board and a new Director. Secondly, we modified the Agency's remit so that it was to: increase those activities assisting people setting up co-operatives, with emphasis on the encouragement of producer co-operatives; give top priority to those functions that boosted enterprises and jobs; concentrate on matters that were peculiar to co-operatives such as model rules; operate within a reduced budget; and explore the possibility of becoming financially independent of Government.

3. This latest assessment is being judged against a very short timescale; the new Director, who has been responsible for reshaping the Agency and pursuing its new objectives, has been in post for a year and other key staff for even less time. Nevertheless, the Agency has made a much greater impact in the past year than previously. The Agency has placed the emphasis firmly on economic viability for co-operatives. It has recruited specialist staff (banking, marketing, accountancy etc) to provide a more professional service to new and existing co-operatives in improving their business skills. It has also taken a number of initiatives to provide more help for new co-operatives, including an imaginative scheme in which experienced retired businessmen "adopt" a local co-operative and provide it with continuing business advice free of charge.

What benefits?
4. The Agency has been particularly adept at promoting the benefits of co-operatives and has received wide coverage in the media, including professional journals. A measure of its success lies in the number of enquiries it now receives - over 1,200 a year - which is an increase of 56% since 1981. The increased enquiry rate correlates to a notable growth of worker co-operatives over

Over the past few years. 300 co-operatives in 1980 (employing 5,300 people) increased to 500 in 1982 (6,300 employees) and 700 (7,500 employees) by March 1983. The Agency estimates 1,000 by the Autumn. While the CDA is not solely responsible for this growth we believe it has made a significant contribution by very effective promotion, by providing expert advice, and by making available to prospective co-operators model rules for easier formation and registration of co-operatives.

5. The Agency has kept within its cash limit by a combination of good housekeeping and increasing help from the private sector and the co-operative movement. The Director of the Agency has been successful in tapping private sector sources for help in "kind". Of the Agency's 12 staff, three are secondees and one or two more should be secured to operate an EEC funded training programme. The Agency estimates that the help from the private sector and co-operative movement is worth some £100,000 a year, effectively increasing its budget to £300,000. The Agency has therefore achieved a contribution from the private sector and the co-operative movement of £1 for every £2 from its public funding.

AUGUST 1983

PARLIAMENT: Legislative Prog
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CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

September 1983

Dear Michael

A
13/2

POLLUTION (PROTECTION OF FOOD AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT) BILL

I have seen your minute of 20 July to the Prime Minister on this subject and also the letter of 4 August from the Department of the Environment.

As you know, Cabinet delayed a decision about inclusion of this Bill in this year's legislative programme. I am bound to say, in the light of what has emerged since our discussion, this was probably wise. The point about dumping radioactive waste at sea is a powerful argument in favour of delay for the moment.

In addition, there is the review of the emergency powers legislation currently taking place. If we are to replace the Emergency Powers Act 1920 with modern legislation, it is arguable that the latter should be sufficiently flexible to cope with less serious situations, such as those you had in mind when devising your Bill. On the other hand, it may be preferable to retain the existing Act and enact a series of separate measures, such as that which you propose, which would deal with potential problems in individual areas. For my part, as a business manager, I would not welcome the second alternative, although I certainly would not rule it out. It seems to me that both methods of achieving our objectives should be examined before any decision is taken about whether a place can be found for your Bill in this Session's programme. Perhaps this is something which you could pursue with Leon Brittan and other colleagues who have an interest in the general review of the legislation.

I see no reason why you should not meanwhile continue with the preparation of your Bill. If our conclusion is then that such a Bill is necessary, it could be introduced later in this Session or at the beginning of the next, depending on the time available.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of the Cabinet and Sir Robert Armstrong.

John
Walker

The Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP



13 SEP 1983

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Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel: 01-233 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
01-233 7172 (Llinell Union)



WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel: 01-233 3000 (Switchboard)
01-233 7172 (Direct Line)

Oddi wrth y Gweinidog Gwladol

From The Minister of State

Parliament

19 August 1983

*hwy
22/8*

Dear Private Secretary

I attach a copy of a letter which should have been enclosed with the copy letter sent to you on 17 August about the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) Bill.

I apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Yours sincerely

R Meechan

MISS RENA MEECHAN

Private Secretary to
Prime Minister

Y SWYDIA GYMREIG

GWYDYR HOUSE

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER

Tel: 01-233 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
01-233 7172 (Llinell Union)

Oddi wrth y Gwainidog Gwladol



WELSH OFFICE

GWYDYR HOUSE

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER

Tel: 01-233 3000 (Switchboard)
01-233 7172 (Direct Line)

From The Minister of State

PUS/195/83(A)

17 August 1983

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your letter of 29 July to Nicholas Edwards about your intention to introduce a Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) Bill and asking for any ideas which might be included therein.

At this stage I am afraid I am unable to offer any useful suggestions.

Yours ever,

John.

JOHN STRADLING THOMAS

Robert N Wareing Esq MP
House of Commons
LONDON

Parliament
Legislation
Pt 11

22 AUG 1985

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Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
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Oddi wrth y Gweinidog Gwladol



WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel: 01-233 3000 (Switchboard)
01-233 7172 (Direct Line)
From The Minister of State

PUS/195/83(A)

17 August 1983

Dear Colin,

CHRONICALLY SICK AND DISABLED PERSONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Thank you for the copy of your letter of 8 August to Tim Flesher.

... This Department has no suggestions to make for inclusion in Mr Wareing's Bill and I attach a copy of Mr Stradling Thomas' reply to this effect.

/ I am copying this letter to recipients of yours.

yours

Sincerely

Mike Chown

M D CHOWN
Private Secretary

Colin Phillips Esq
Private Secretary to
Secretary of State for Health & Social Security
Alexander Fleming House
Elephant & Castle
LONDON

Parliament
Legislation Pt 11.



18 AUG 1983

010
CONFIDENTIAL



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

DB
9/8

Tim Flesher Esq
Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

8 August 1983

Dear Tim,

CHRONICALLY SICK AND DISABLED PERSONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Robert Wareing MP has written to my Secretary of State about his Private Members Bill, which will have its Second Reading in November. Other Ministers may also have been approached, with a request to trawl for ideas from their Departments for inclusion in the Bill.

One of the main purposes of the Bill is expected to be an attempt to introduce anti-discrimination legislation along the lines recommended in the report of the Committee on Restrictions against Disabled People. A similar attempt was made in February this year through Donald Steward's Private Members Bill. The Government's approach to that Bill, agreed at "H" and "L" Committees, was that it should be blocked. Ministers have not yet had a chance to discuss their collective approach to Robert Wareing's Bill, but as long as the anti-discrimination element remains - and there seems little prospect of the Bill's supporters dropping this key point - it seems likely that Ministers will adopt a similar approach to the earlier one.

As far as Mr Wareing's letter is concerned, those Departments which have no suggestions to make for inclusion in the Bill will no doubt be writing to that effect, but I suggest that even those which could put forward possible ideas in their own fields, should send a non-committal interim reply at this stage, until Ministers have considered their approach to handling the Bill.

I am copying this to all Private Secretaries to Members of the Cabinet.

Yours ever,
Colin Phillips

COLIN PHILLIPS
Private Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL



08 AUG 1983
11 12 11
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08 AUG 1983

CONFIDENTIAL



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

4th August 1983

Dear Robert

D
5/8

POLLUTION (PROTECTION OF FOOD AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT)
BILL

Your Minister minuted the Prime Minister on 20 July about the suggestion that the immediate need for this Bill might be avoided if use could be made of the Emergency Powers Act to control the sale of contaminated agricultural produce or fish, your conclusion was that the Bill was still necessary.

There is a separate factor relevant to the timing of another of the Bill's parts, on dumping of wastes at sea, and that is the doubtful advisability of seeking to legislate on that particular subject when there is a good deal of controversy over the dumping at sea of radioactive wastes. This is the subject of correspondence between Ministers in the Departments most directly concerned, and Ministers there feel that this would need to be resolved before a Bill could proceed in the form originally envisaged.

I am copying this letter to members of the Cabinet and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely
Helen Ghosh

MRS H F GHOSH
Private Secretary

Robert Lawson Esq PS/Michael Jopling

PARLIAMENT : Legislatura : PE 11

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AUG 1983



subject: ...

File

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25 July 1983

This is just to record that the Prime Minister has seen the Lord President's minute to her of 20 July about dog licences.

Timothy Flesher

Bob Whalley, Esq.,
Lord President's Office.



GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION(i) Second Reading

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation)

Prevention of Terrorism

Tenants' Rights, etc (Scotland) Amendment

(ii) Standing CommitteeHousing and Building ControlTelecommunications(iii) Report and Third ReadingPetroleum Royalties (Relief)

(iv) <u>Orders and Regulations</u>	<u>Date Laid</u>	<u>Whether Controversial</u>	<u>Date Required</u>
* Agriculture and Horticulture (2 Orders)	30/6	No	A.S.A.P.
* Bicycles (2 Orders)	8/7 + 19/7	No	By Summer Recess
Civil Defence (2 Orders)	12/7	No	After Summer Recess
Civil Defence (Scotland) (2 Orders)	12/7	No	After Summer Recess
Code of Local Government Audit Practice	11/7	No	For debate 28/7
Development Bank (2 Orders)	8/7	No	Early November
* International Carriage	5/7	No	By Summer Recess
* Iron Casting Industry	22/6	Yes	By Summer Recess
* Job Release	12/5	No	By Summer Recess
Ministerial and other salaries	21/7	No	For debate, 26/7
RSG Reports (England) (2 Reports)	4/7	Yes	For debate, 26/7
* Sheep and Goats	13/5	No	Non-urgent
Sheep Variable Premium	15/7	No	No deadline
Social Security and Housing (7 Orders)	7/7 + 8/7	No	For debate 27/7
Traffic Areas	12/5	Maybe	For debate, 28/7
Welsh RSG Reports (2 Reports)	7/7	No	For debate, 26/7

*S.I. Committee

Lords

Data Protection (L)

Finance

Foreign Limitation Periods (L)

∅ Foster Children (Scotland) (L)

Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers)

∅ Medical (L)

Merchant Shipping (Miscellaneous Provisions) (L)

Occupiers' Liability (L)

∅ Value Added Tax (L)

Awaiting Royal Assent

∅ Car Tax (L)

Companies (Beneficial Interests)

International Monetary Arrangements

∅ Consolidation

CONFIDENTIAL

2 N.O



Privy Council Office
68 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AT

22 July 1983

DF
25/7

Dear Mr. Jenkin

CROWN LAND (PLANNING PERMISSION) BILL

Patrick Jenkin wrote to you on 18 July to ask that his Crown Land (Planning Permission) Bill be added to the list of Bills for Second Reading Committee.

As you know, this matter was discussed in Cabinet on 7 July and it was thought that Second Reading Committee treatment would be a possible alternative in the event that no Private Member were inclined to take up the Bill. Patrick Jenkin explained in his letter that it was now unlikely that the Bill would be taken up.

I have considered Patrick Jenkin's request with the Chief Whip. We take the view that there must be some doubt as to whether this measure would be accepted by the Opposition as being entirely uncontroversial. There must be a question mark therefore against the prospects of the Bill receiving Second Reading in Committee, although I understand that some effort is being made to find an alternative title for the Bill which will make it appear, on the surface, less controversial. There is the additional problem that the Opposition are not at present focussing on the question of Second Reading Committee Bills.

I have no objection to this Bill being added to the Second Reading Committee Bill list but I think it only fair to warn Patrick that it may well not be accepted by the Opposition. I am therefore content to give approval for the employment of Parliamentary Counsel on the drafting of the Bill on the understanding that there is no guarantee that the Bill will be added to the main programme if Second Reading in Committee is refused by the Opposition.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Members of QL, Patrick Jenkin, Norman Fowler, First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

JOHN BIFFEN

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CH MC
Lord President of the Council and
Leader of the House of Lords

CONFIDENTIAL



25 J

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With the Compliments
of the
Private Secretary
to the
Lord Privy Seal

W
21/7



Privy Council Office
68 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

Dear Private Secretary

21 July 1983

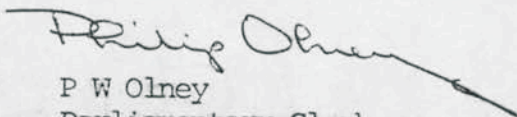
MOTION ON THE SUMMER ADJOURNMENT

The motion on the Summer Adjournment will take place on Monday 25 July. Assuming there are no statements, the debate will start at about 3.30 pm, following Oral Questions, and will run for a maximum of three hours.

We have prepared a list of subjects which we think it likely that back-benchers will raise during the debate and the relevant Departments have already been asked to provide briefing on these for the Lord Privy Seal to use when winding up. The purpose of this letter is to ask all Departments for a list of the officials who will be 'standing by' throughout the debate in case any additional briefing is required. The lists should reach me by mid-day Friday 22 July at the latest.

I am copying this letter to Bill McKay (Secretary of the House of Commons Services Committee) and to Michael Cummins (Serjeant at Arms' office).

Yours sincerely


P W Olney
Parliamentary Clerk



Prime Minister:

H Committee agreed with your view on dog licences.

mt

PRIME MINISTER

DOG LICENCES

29/7

The Home and Social Affairs Committee (H) discussed the question of dog licences yesterday. There was general agreement that the present absurd situation, in which the cost of collection exceeds the revenue, must be changed, particularly in view of last December's critical report by the Public Accounts Committee.

H Committee agreed that there are two feasible options: to abolish the licence altogether, and to raise the fee to a realistic level, say £5.

The Secretary of State for the Environment favoured raising the fee to £5. He thought that if the licence were abolished, the Government would be widely seen as washing its hands of the very real problem of the nuisance caused by uncontrolled and stray dogs; and that the extra revenue generated by a £5 fee could be used by local authorities to tackle that problem.

But a clear majority of the Committee was in favour of abolishing the licence altogether. About 50 per cent of dogs are at present unlicensed. The majority of the Committee thought that that percentage would increase if the cost of the licence were raised, and that the law would be unenforceable. They thought that an increase in the fee would not necessarily lead to more effective measures against dog nuisance: the two issues were separate ones.

The Secretary of State for the Environment will reconsider the matter in the light of the discussion. We will try in the autumn to reach a decision in H which will avoid his having to take the question to Cabinet.

RESTRICTED

Abolition of the licence would require primary legislation, and it is not clear when Parliamentary time could be found for it. Raising the licence fee would require secondary legislation only. But I should make it clear that, in my judgement, there will continue to be a majority in H Committee for abolition as soon as legislative time can be found for an inevitably controversial Bill.

I am sending a copy of this minute to Sir Robert Armstrong.

WSD

20 July 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

cc D.P. 2

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH



From the Minister

PRIME MINISTER

mf

Prime Minister

TR 20/7

20 July 1983

John Prime Minister

THE POLLUTION (PROTECTION OF FOOD AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT) BILL

As you requested in Cabinet on 7 July I have considered the extent to which I might be able to make use of the Emergency Powers Acts to deal with the type of emergencies I had in mind in putting forward the Pollution (Protection of Food and the Marine Environment) Bill.

My conclusion is that the type of incidents I envisage for my Bill would rarely be on anything like the scale that would qualify for the draconian approach of the Emergency Powers Acts. The Acts are designed to deal with incidents so serious that they are likely to deprive the community, or a substantial part of the community, of the essentials of life including water and food. Indeed, one of the main purposes of the Emergency Powers Acts is to ensure that suitable food gets to people rather than unsuitable food is kept off the market. Under the procedures laid down in the Emergency Powers Acts, a state of emergency has to be declared and, if necessary, Parliament recalled. The necessary emergency measures then have to be incorporated into regulations and lapse unless approved by Parliament within the seven days. If necessary, the state of emergency has to be extended at monthly intervals.

To declare a state of emergency and recall Parliament simply in order to restrict sales of agricultural produce or fish within a limited area would not only involve the Government of the day in considerable criticism, but would also attract publicity out of all proportion. As a result, the public confidence in the market for agricultural produce and fish could be undermined for a long period and, in the case of incidents involving, say, nuclear power stations, could play right into the hands of those critics who would like to see the nuclear power programme abandoned.

In contrast, my Bill would provide powers which could be introduced more rapidly and flexibly in order, for example, to place a temporary ban on the sale of milk or vegetables from half a dozen farms or prohibit fishing close to a wreck carrying toxic chemicals.

/I am convinced ...

I am convinced that we need this Bill and that the Emergency Powers Acts would be a most unsuitable vehicle for dealing with anything but the most serious incidents.

I am copying this minute to members of Cabinet and Sir Robert Armstrong.

James Evans
Michael

MICHAEL JOPLING

Parliament
Legislation
A+H

COMPTON

PRIME MINISTER

2

MT

H COMMITTEE

Dog Licences

H Committee (minutes attached) discussed the proposal by the Secretary of State for the Environment to increase the dog licence fee to £5. In the event, however, a majority of the Committee favoured abolition. Particular factors which weighed with the Committee were the impossibility of enforcement and the absence of obligation on authorities to spend licence fee income on dog control measures. The Lord President invited Mr. Jenkin either to take the matter to Cabinet or to bring back proposals reflecting the majority view of the Committee in the autumn. *(See his minute elsewhere in the box)*

Civil Legal Aid

There was something of a row in H Committee about the Lord Chancellor's proposals for curbing civil legal aid expenditure and for extending the system of payment on account from last year to this year. The Chief Secretary argued that the low take-up rate of the 1982/83 scheme (only £13m of the £30m allocated) demonstrated that there was no great demand for it. The Scottish Office said that they did not have the money for a similar scheme in Scotland. In the event, however, it was agreed that since the Lord Chancellor would need the goodwill of the legal profession in order to secure greater control over civil legal aid expenditure, some money should be made available for payments on account. This should not, however, be as much as proposed by the Lord Chancellor and the precise amount would need to be determined in discussion with the Chief Secretary.

D.

20 July, 1983

CC NO



CABINET OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AS

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

20 July 1983

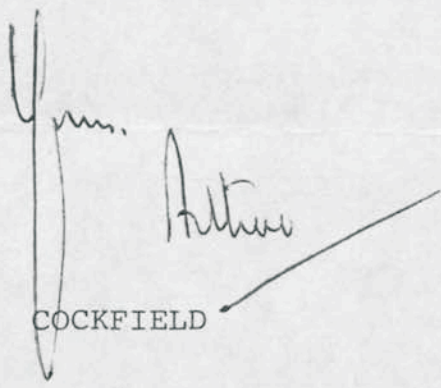
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Dear Helene,

I have seen Patrick Jenkin's letter of 18 July to Cecil Parkinson on the Co-operative Development Agency Bill.

I would have thought all this premature. Not only do we not know what the detailed proposals on Industrial Development will be; but we haven't yet decided whether we want to keep the Co-operative Development Agency or not. I hope we don't drift into a situation where it is assumed we will keep the CDA - I regard it as a prime candidate for abolition. It would, to say the least, look very odd to have a Bill which combined improvements in the Regional Grant Scheme with the execution of the CDA.

I am copying this letter to other members of the Cabinet, to John Wakeham and to Sir Robert Armstrong.


COCKFIELD

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CH MC
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
London SW1

Parliament - Legislation
Pt 11



21 JUL 1994

c o n f i d e n t i a l

CC 2/0



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

MBPM
MS 19/7

My ref: J/PSO/13317/83
Your ref:

18 July 1983

Dear Cecil,

Your letter of 1 July to the Lord President sought the support of Cabinet colleagues for extending the Co-operative Development Agency Bill to cover changes to the RDG scheme, and we agreed in Cabinet on 7 July to think further about this possibility when the policy on the scheme had been settled.

We have of course yet to receive the inter-departmental report which gives the detailed proposals, but, from what my officials have told me, it seems that the changes would improve the scheme considerably. I hope that we can have an early discussion about them. If colleagues are convinced that the proposals would enhance the cost effectiveness of the scheme, without an undue increase in complexity, then there is certainly a strong case for introducing the necessary legislative changes as soon as possible.

I have to leave you to judge the advantages and disadvantages of getting the legislation through Parliament before we know what the new Assisted Area map will be, but clearly the new map will be the major concern for many of those who will wish to express views - not least those representing the West Midlands.

I am copying this letter to other members of the Cabinet, to John Wakeham and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever
Patrick

PATRICK JENKIN

The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP

c o n f i d e n t i a l

Parliamentary
Legislative Reg.
R. 11

1988 JUL 23

1988 JUL 23



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

18 July 1983

Dear Willie,

Cabinet agreed on 7 July (minute 4.3) that if the proposed Crown Land (Planning Permission) Bill were not taken up by a private Member, consideration should be given to the possibility of its being added to the list of Bills for Second Reading Committee. As you will know from my letter to you of 27 June, the main provision in this Bill would overcome the Crown's inability to apply for planning permission when disposing of surplus land and would help to ensure that disposals achieved full market value. I am convinced of the need to legislate for this at the earliest opportunity and have the support of several colleagues. However, I am now advised that there is no chance of the Bill being taken up by a private Member and I am therefore writing to you as Chairman of QL Committee to ask that the Bill be added to the Second Reading Committee list.

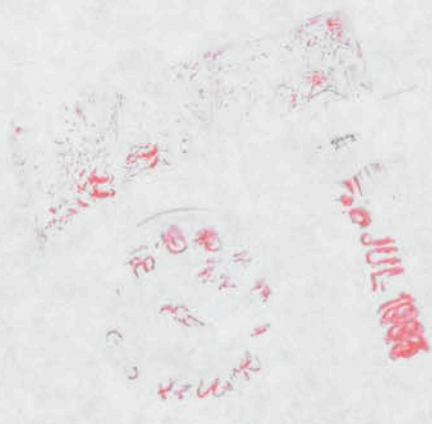
If you are able to accede to this request, I would be grateful if John Biffen would give his approval to the drafting of the Bill by Parliamentary Counsel.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Members of QL, Norman Fowler, First Parliamentary Counsel and also to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours
Patrick*

PATRICK JENKIN

Parliament
Legislative Program
Pt 11



PRIME MINISTER

DOGS

You will recall seeing the H paper by the Secretary of State for the Environment on Dog Licences and disagreeing with his conclusion that the licence fee should be raised instead of abolished. H discusses the issues tomorrow (Tuesday). Would you like the Lord President to minute you on the conclusions of the Committee if H decides against abolition?

*Yes please
no*

H

18 July, 1983

PRIME MINISTER

DOGS

1 would double the licence - and cut the income of the
4

Attached is an H Committee paper by the Environment Secretary about dog licences. The Public Accounts Committee reported last year on the licensing system and criticised severely the absurd position in which the cost of administering the system was greater than the revenue collected by some £3.5m. The Secretary of State sees four main options:-

- i) To do nothing. But he thinks this is indefensible.
- ii) Abolition. This would require primary legislation and a loss of such information as the licensing system now gives.
- iii) A Dog's Bill covering the whole range of control issues. Unfortunately there is no consensus even within the Government side on the right solution.
- iv) Increase the licence to £5. This would not require primary legislation, would remove the collection deficit and leave income over to assist local authorities to deal with problems caused by dogs. The Secretary of State proposes a half-rate concession for over 65's living alone.

A £5 licence fee would produce total income of £12.5m (there are more than 2½m dogs in the country) and the total income for local authorities would be about £8m. If licences were abolished there would be a saving of £4.5m on collection costs against a loss in income of about £1m.

As you know, these animal questions always cause disproportionate difficulty and there will be considerable abolitionist sentiment in the House. Moreover, some will argue that an increase in the licence fee will simply cause greater evasion in a country which is used to

/ a minimal

a minimal licence fee. The choice really does seem to be between abolition and a fee increase.

TF

13 July 1983

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION(i) Second Reading

- ∅ Car Tax (L)
 ∅ Medical (L)
 Prevention of Terrorism
 Telecommunications
 Tenants' Rights, etc (Scotland) Amendment
 ∅ Value Added Tax (L)

D

18/7

(ii) Standing Committee

- Housing and Building Control
 Petroleum Royalties (Relief)

(iii) Orders and Regulations

	<u>Date Laid</u>	<u>Whether Controversial</u>	<u>Date Required</u>
Agriculture and Horticulture (2 Orders)	30/6	No	A.S.A.P
Bicycles (2 Orders)	8/7	No	By Summer Recess
British Shipbuilders	22/6	Yes	For debate 18/7
Civil Defence (2 Orders)	12/7	No	After Summer Recess
Civil Defence (Scotland)(2 Orders)	12/7	No	After Summer Recess
Code of Local Government Audit Practice	11/7	No	By Summer Recess, if possible
Development Bank (2 Orders)	8/7	No	Early November
Equal Pay	6/7	Maybe	For debate, 20/7
Housing (N.I.)(3 Orders)	7/7	No	For debate, 20/7
International Carriage	5/7	No	By Summer Recess
International Jute Organisation	29/6	No	By Summer Recess
Iron Casting Industry	22/6	Yes	By Summer Recess
Job Release	12/5	No	By Summer Recess
Ministerial and other Salaries	13/7	No	For debate, 19/7
Rate Reduction (Scotland) (4 Districts)	7/7	Yes	For debate, 21/7
Redundancy Payments	6/7	No	By Summer Recess
RSG Reports (England)(2 Reports)	4/7	Yes	By Summer Recess
Sex Discrimination	22/6	No	By Summer Recess

(iii) Orders and Regulations (continued)

	<u>Date Laid</u>	<u>Whether Controversial</u>	<u>Date Required</u>
* Sheep and Goats	13/5	No	Non-urgent
Social Security and Housing (7 Orders)	7/7 + 8/7	No	By Summer Recess
Traffic Areas	12/5	Maybe	Desirable before Summer Recess
* Weights and Measures (2 Orders)	28/4	No	By Summer Recess
Welsh RSG Reports (2 Reports)	7/7	No	By Summer Recess

* S.I. Committee

Lords

Companies (Beneficial Interests)

Data Protection (L)

Finance

Foreign Limitation Periods (L)

International Monetary Arrangements

Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers)

Occupiers' Liability (L)



Ref.A083/1974

PRIME MINISTER

Legislative Programme 1983-84
(C(83) 19 and 20)

BACKGROUND

FLAG A

The Lord President's memorandum C(83) 19 reports the conclusions of The Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee (QL) on the legislative programme for the current Session. To a large extent the proposed programme, which is based on that which the Cabinet provisionally approved in April, settles itself: the essential Bills must be enacted this Session; and the list of programme Bills consists almost entirely of Bills which fell at the Dissolution or which were promised in The Queen's Speech.

FLAG B

2. QL consider that the programme they recommend is a very heavy one, and that room cannot be found for any additional Bills. QL had in mind, among other things, the point you made at Cabinet on 16 June (CC(83) 19th Conclusions, Minute 4) that in the second Session of this Parliament the Bill to abolish the Greater London Council and the Metropolitan County Councils should be introduced right at the start; and that it would be desirable to avoid a spillover in the autumn of 1984, so that the 1984-85 Session might start earlier than usual. But a number of Ministers are still pressing for Bills to be added to the programme; their views are summarised in paragraph 4 of C(83) 19. Details of the Bills in the proposed programme, and of the other Bills whose claims are still being urged, are in C(83) 20.

FLAG C

HANDLING

3. You will want the Lord President to introduce his memorandum. The Lord Privy Seal and the Chief Whip may then wish to give their assessment of the weight of the proposed programme, and of the scope, if any, for adding further Bills to it.

4. Before considering individual Bills, you may wish the Cabinet to consider the overall size and balance of the proposed programme. Do they agree that the number of Bills is about right, and does anyone wish to comment on any of the Bills recommended by QL?

5. You may then wish the Cabinet to look at the individual Bills which are not in the proposed programme but which Ministers continue to press for. They are listed in paragraph 4 of C(83) 19.

(a) Dock Work Regulation

A short Bill to relieve the Secretary of State for Employment of the obligation to bring forward a new Dock Work Labour Scheme has been drafted, and QL would have recommended its inclusion in the programme if it could have been introduced in July. The Secretary of State for Employment and the Secretary of State for Transport can explain why that is not possible, and why they wish a place to be found for the Bill later on. The Secretary of State for Transport has said in correspondence that the scope of the Bill may have to be extended. If the scope of the Bill is still not known, the Lord President and the Lord Privy Seal may argue that there can be no question of including it in the programme. Perhaps it could be reconsidered later in the year, in the light of its content as then envisaged and of the position then reached on the rest of the programme.

(b) Crown Land (Planning Permission)

Can the Secretary of State for the Environment say whether any Private Member has taken up this Bill? The Secretary of State for Social Services may also wish to argue that it should be included in the Government's programme if no Private Member does take it up. It is short and uncontroversial. Would the Lord President and the Lord Privy Seal be prepared to accept it on a contingency basis?

(c) Industrial Development

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry will wish to argue the case for this Bill. He has suggested in correspondence that it might be combined with the Co-operative Development Agency Bill. But according to C(83) 20 Industrial Development is not expected to be ready for introduction until January. The Lord President and the Lord-Privy Seal are likely to argue that it should wait until next Session. The Chancellor of the Exchequer may have views.

(d) Development of Inventions

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry may wish to argue for this Bill too. But we understand that he may accept that it should be postponed, and that seems the sensible course.

(e) British Airways and National Bus Company

The Secretary of State for Transport will wish to explain the urgency he attaches to making progress with these privatisations. The Chancellor of the Exchequer may support him. The Lord President and the Lord Privy Seal are likely to argue that the inclusion of this legislation, which although fairly short would be controversial, would overload the programme.

(f) Tourism (Overseas Promotion) (Scotland)

The Secretary of State for Scotland would accept that legislation should be deferred if it is to be on a Great Britain basis, but if it is decided that there should be legislation for Scotland alone he would like it introduced this Session. A Scottish Bill would be very short, uncontroversial, and suitable for introduction in the House of Lords and for Scottish Grand Committee. Could the Lord President and the Lord Privy Seal not accept it on that basis?



CONCLUSIONS

5. Subject to any points made in discussion, you may wish to guide the Cabinet:-

- (a) to approve the recommended legislation programme for 1983-84 as set out in the Annex to C(83) 19, with or without modification;
- (b) to invite all Ministers concerned to maintain and where possible improve on the timetables for the preparation of their Bills as set out in C(83) 20.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

6 July 1983

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CONFIDENTIAL

PA

CC No

(2)



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JU934

1 July 1983

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw MC CH
Privy Council Office
Whitehall SW1

Dear Lord President

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1983/84: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BILL

I promised to let you know as soon as possible whether I would be urging colleagues in Cabinet to reconsider the exclusion of the Industrial Development Bill from the 1983/84 programme as recommended by QL. As I know you have already had to put forward your own paper I am circulating this direct to colleagues.

We have been considering changes that should be made to regional policy and in particular to Regional Development Grants. There are, of course, serious issues that remain to be settled on regional policy but MISC14 at its meeting on 24 March endorsed in principle certain proposals for a new RDG scheme designed to make it more job related. To achieve this the Industry Act needs to be amended to do three things: to give powers to impose a cost per job limit; to enable job grants to be given as an alternative to capital grants; and to provide for RDGs to be assessed on a "project" rather than a premises basis. Officials were asked to report back at the end of this month with detailed options. These proposals are about to be submitted.

I believe that these changes will be widely welcomed. They would make regional policy more employment related and will be regarded as positive long term measures to create jobs. They would meet the major criticisms about the cost effectiveness of regional policy, and would be exactly in accordance with the commitments made in our Manifesto.

Bringing about these changes will at a later stage require further detailed decisions on matters such as the Assisted Area Map and rates of grant. But introducing legislation now would in no way pre-empt our decisions on these matters. Indeed there could be political advantages in already having the legislation in place before announcing the detailed decisions we will have to make. Certainly the passage of the legislation should be easier this way as it will be confined to changes that will attract support.



These changes are only part of the outcome of our review of regional policy but they are the only ones that will require primary legislation. It is important to proceed with the legislation now, so that we are in a position to implement these changes, on which we are agreed, as soon as possible in 1985. If we do not have legislation this session these changes cannot be made until mid 1986. This would mean that regional policy would continue for a further year to distort business decisions in favour of capital investment rather than the creation of jobs. We would also delay the substantial savings that would come from improving the cost effectiveness of regional policy. These savings will depend on the other decisions we have to make on regional policy but could be up to £100-150 million.

A further consideration is that these changes will also fulfill a commitment which we gave to the EC Commission in 1980 to make certain modifications to the scheme by 1984 and contribute significantly to maximising the take-up of our quota of the European Regional Development Fund. There is a potentially serious long term problem arising in the shortfall in our take up of the European Regional Development Fund.

I recognise that it is not possible for colleagues to make room for a separate Industrial Development Bill in such a crowded session, but there is an alternative. QL has already recommended the inclusion of a Cooperative Development Agency Bill in the 1983/84 programme of about 5 clauses. The provision to amend RDGs - a further 3-6 clauses - could be added to that without making the CDA Bill significantly more controversial. This would avoid ruling out until the middle of this Parliament the chance to save money on RDGs and to make regional policy both more cost effective and more employment related.

I hope that I shall have the support of colleagues for adding this provision to the CDA Bill, which would then become an Industrial Development (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

I am copying this letter to other members of the Cabinet, to John Wakeham, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely
S. Parkin

CP CECIL PARKINSON

(approved by the Secretary of State and signed in his absence)

PART 10 ends:-

C(83) 20 30/6

PART 11 begins:-

S/S DTI to LPC 1/7

