



NBPM

BT 2/13

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My ref:

Your ref:

2 December 1983

Dear Norman,

## WHITE PAPER ON REGIONAL POLICY

I am content with the references to matters of direct interest to DOE in paras 21-25 of the draft White Paper, subject to one reservation.

The last sentence of para 23 implies a commitment on the part of our two Departments to producing work on "the diagnosis of economic problems in particular areas and on programmes for tackling them." While I welcome the close co-operation that now exists between our Departments in this field, I suspect that this reference will arouse both expectations of something more substantial than is intended (a revival of regional economic planning) and demands from local authorities and others both to be involved in the process and to see the results. I suggest deleting "on the diagnosis ..... tackling them" and substituting "on matters of common interest".

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

Your ever  
Patrick

PATRICK JENKIN

Reg Pd  
Review  
PT 6

F 2 DEC 1983

