



Prime Minister (2)

To note

DWB  
23/12

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

PRIME MINISTER

NATIONALISED INDUSTRY REFERENCES TO THE MONOPOLIES AND  
MERGERS COMMISSION (MMC): 1984 PROGRAMME

This minute is to report the outcome of an ad hoc meeting which I chaired yesterday, in the absence of a convenient meeting of E(NI), to settle the 1984 programme of nationalised industry references to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. You will recall that Norman Tebbit put round proposals at the end of October for a programme of six studies, but a difference of view emerged on whether the Scottish Division of the British Airports Authority should be included as proposed.

2. We agreed that the best course was to make an early announcement of the five references on which there was agreement and to look again later in the year at a possible sixth candidate. By the summer, some of the uncertainties which caused us to hesitate over referring the Scottish airports should be out of the way. We will know, for example, the outcome of any appeal on the question of a BMA licence to fly from Glasgow to New York and we will know whether efforts currently in hand to promote Prestwick have borne fruit. Although still politically difficult, a study of the Scottish airports in the second half of 1984 could give useful objective evidence which could contribute to any view which we needed to take in due course on the future of Prestwick.

3. Nick Ridley will also be considering if there is any scope for other studies within the British Airports Authority, in the light of his wider thinking about future policy on airports.

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In addition, we agreed that we should try to cast the net more widely to take in some of the other and smaller public bodies which are covered by Section 11 of the Competition Act 1980. The programme has tended to concentrate so far on the major nationalised industries and there should be room for both categories.

4. I am copying this minute to the members of E(NI) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Margaret O'Mara*

N.L.

22 December 1983

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

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file

W7

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 December, 1983

cc CDLO DTI  
CO DTI  
DM SO  
DN DOE  
CS, HMT

NATIONALISED INDUSTRY REFERENCES TO THE MONOPOLIES  
AND MERGERS COMMISSION (MMC): 1984 PROGRAMME

The Prime Minister has seen and noted the  
Chancellor's minute dated 22 December on the above  
subject.

(David Barclay)

Miss M. O'Mara  
HM Treasury

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[Handwritten scribble]

KVP

cc NO

NBPM  
9/12

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

8 December 1983

The Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit MP  
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

*Norman Tebbit*

**NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES REFERENCES TO THE  
MONOPOLIES AND MERGERS COMMISSION (MMC)**

You wrote to me on 2 December about the composition of the 1984 programme of nationalised industry references to the MMC.

Since E(NI) is unlikely to meet before Christmas, I am prepared to chair a short ad hoc meeting as you suggest. My private office will be in touch shortly to arrange a date.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Secretaries of State for Transport and Scotland, the Chief Secretary and Sir Robert Armstrong.

NIGEL LAWSON

*Norman*  
*Nigel*

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19 DEC 1983