



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

From the Minister

CONFIDENTIAL

Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB

nkpm
DWB
1/8

31 July 1984

DOG LICENSING

My officials have drawn ^{with RB} my attention to a letter to you from Peter Rees dated 18 July, commenting on your draft consultation paper, which was not copied to me.

Peter suggests, among other things, that it is for you, me and George Younger to make proposals to colleagues, covering all the options, for dealing with the consequences of demonetisation of the 1/2p on the dog licence.

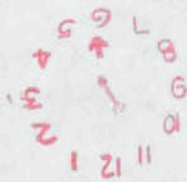
Quite frankly, this seems a very elaborate exercise for a very small issue. I see no alternative, in the interim before your legislation is presented, to preserving the status quo on the level of the licence. If that policy is accepted (and it is open to Treasury to propose another) I am advised that there are no consequences of demonetisation save that the fee becomes 37p automatically on the day the 1/2p disappears. The administrators of the licence have no authority for charging more than that figure, and therefore cannot refuse to deliver licences if the sum is tendered. They should be told clearly that that is the position and the issue will then be settled. I have no desire to introduce legislation simply to end uncertainty where a clear statement from Government would have the same effect.

An early opportunity to make this statement presents itself in the publication of your consultation document on licensing: I hope that you will take it and end this strange affair.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Members of H Committee, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, the Chief Secretary, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

MICHAEL JOPLING

Parliament: Legislat



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cc/po

Await Dof



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

// July 1984

Dear Patrick:

Dog Licensing

As you know I have always favoured the abolition of the licensing system with the retention of the requirement for collars and of the control of strays.

Your proposals seem to me unduly complicated and as was pointed out in the H-Committee discussion last year only indirectly related to the care and control of dogs, the principal issue. It does not follow that an owner who has a licensed animal will treat it correctly. And if it did, why is the power to be discretionary?

In so far as a public authority can influence the management of dogs, this would seem to be achieved in a simple manner by the requirements of The Control of Dogs Order (1930 No. 399) obliging the wearing of a collar bearing the name and address of the owner by all dogs in a public place. And a quarter of all authorities, it seems, already maintain dog warden services without the benefit of a high licence fee.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Members of H-Committee, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

yrs:

The Right Honourable
Patrick Jenkin MP,
Secretary of State for the Environment,
Department of the Environment,
2 Marsham Street,
London,
SW1P 3EB

11 JUL 1964

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Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

5 July 1984

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 3EB

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D Patrick,

DOG LICENSING

in IM box

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 2 July to Willie Whitelaw and the draft consultation paper. I must say that I find it most unsatisfactory that comments have been requested at such short notice on a matter which has been under consideration for so long. In the circumstances, and without reference to any views the Post Office may have, I can confirm that I am content for the broad shape of the proposals to be announced in the debate on the DOE Estimates as well as the intention to publish a consultative document.

2 I am concerned, however, to ensure that it is made clear that the impact of the proposed changes on the Post Office will need to be considered in the consultation process. As it stands the draft paper does not discuss whether under the new arrangements local authorities would continue to use the Post Office Counters network.

3 Dog licensing work is a relatively minor element of the business conducted over Post office counters. But as you will be aware, any proposals which may lead to business being lost, especially at sub-Post Offices, have a special significance both to the counters business itself and to the sub-Postmasters' lobby. When, as Secretary of State for Social Services, you announced the changes in DHSS payment methods in May 1981 you repeated the Government's commitment to maintaining an adequate sub-post office network. You also expressed the Government's confidence that business lost as a result of the changes would be more than compensated for by growth in new and existing business at counters. It will be sub-offices that will stand to lose most



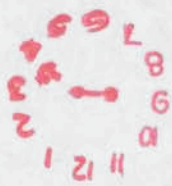
if the new licensing arrangements take business away from the Post Office and we will be pressed hard to explain how this fits in with the statement which you made in May 1981.

4 While I would not suggest that any requirement be imposed on local authorities to continue to use the counters network irrespective of the costs involved, I do think that it is important that we ensure that the counters business is given a fair chance to negotiate commercial terms with local authorities to continue to undertake dog licensing at counters.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Tebbit', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

NORMAN TEBBIT



4 JUL 1984



CCND
BX

SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 3EB

25 July 1984

*noted
25/7*

Dear Patrick,

DOG LICENSING

You sent me a copy of your letter of 2 July to Willie Whitelaw about the proposed consultation paper on dogs.

Because of the different statutory provisions applying in Scotland, my officials have already had an opportunity to comment on, and contribute to earlier drafts of the paper. I am satisfied that the document which has emerged from those contacts forms a basis for consultation on how dog licensing and related matters are to be managed in the future.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of H Committee, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, the Chief Whip, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours wes,
George.*

Bellmont #12

by 1864

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1864
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cc w/b



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

16 July 1984

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DOG LICENSING

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 2 July to Willie Whitelaw concerning the draft consultation paper. In general, I welcome a proposal which will put an end to the present plethora of separate Departmental responsibilities and continuing criticism over licences.

I have only three points of substance on the consultation paper, two of which have been raised by officials in comments on the previous draft. First, I do not think it is convincing to argue, as you suggest in paragraph 15, that people who ignore a fee because its level is derisory will pay a high one. Secondly, and more importantly, paragraph 19 refers to the extent of powers available to local authorities. As the purpose of the Bill is to provide comprehensive legislation for the control of dogs, there might be an advantage in including specific provisions to make by byelaws, or, alternatively, providing for adoptive regulations (although these are only really suitable for the less contentious byelaws). Thirdly, you suggest in paragraph 21 that surplus revenue might be devoted to the prevention of cruelty to dogs. This may be taken to suggest that present legislation, which is essentially the same for dogs as for other animals, is inadequate. I should prefer a reference, as in paragraph 23, to welfare measures, although I am not entirely sure what you have in mind.

Other, practical points - such as how to identify dogs and the places at which they are kept - can be considered in more depth when responses to the consultation document have been received.

I have sent copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Members of H Committee, Norman Tebbit, John Wakeham and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Leon B. ...

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin, MP

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legislative: PARLIAMENT P+12.

17 JUL 1984

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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 3EB

4 July 1984

Patrick Jenkin

DOG LICENSING

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 2 July to Willie Whitelaw about the line you propose to take on dog licensing if the subject is raised in tomorrow's debate on the Environment Select Committee's report on DOE main estimates. *in PM's box*

I see no objection to your indicating in the debate the general shape of your proposals, and announcing the intention to publish a consultation paper. As you say, the proposals are basically in line with those considered by H Committee last year. I will let you have comments on the draft consultation paper as soon as possible.

The draft paper states, in paragraph 16, that dog licensing is not now appropriate to its original purpose of raising revenue. I very much hope, however, that you will not say anything in tomorrow's debate which will rule out the option of using dog licensing as a means of raising general revenue.

Your letter did not refer to the consequences for the licence fee of the demonetisation of the halfpenny. If questioned on that during the debate, I understand that you have it in mind to say that the decision on what should be done must, in part, rest on conclusions on the wider problem of what to do about dog licensing arrangements. I have no objection to that, provided it leaves the way open to move to full recovery of costs when the halfpenny demonetisation proposal

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comes into effect in the autumn, if Ministers decide that that is the preferred course.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, the members of H Committee, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, the Chief Whip, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever *PR*

PETER REES

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~~cc No~~



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AT

3 July 1984

Dear Patrick

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3/7

DOG LICENSING

with DB?

Thank you for your letter of 2 July proposing an announcement tomorrow about our new approach to dog licensing and control, followed by a consultation paper.

Given the circumstances I agree with you that an announcement would be sensible, and unless there is any significant dissent from colleagues by close of play today you may take it that you have H Committee's agreement. You will of course appreciate that it is not possible to give any commitments at this stage about the timing of legislation. As regards the consultation document, colleagues will need a little time to look at the detail and I suggest that any comments they have should reach you by 13 July.

I am sending copies of this reply to the Prime Minister, the members of H Committee, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

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The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP

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