



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

FILE

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da

cc Dr. Nicholson

9 November 1984

Dear Andrew,

Government Response to the Tenth Report of The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution

The Prime Minister has considered your Secretary of State's minute of 2 November to which was attached a draft of the Government's response to the Tenth Report of The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

As I told you on the telephone, the Prime Minister believes that the passage in the draft response which deals with recommendation 7.95, and in particular with the environmental benefits of nuclear energy, could be strengthened. I enclose a revised text which the Prime Minister has approved, subject to your Secretary of State's views and those of the Secretary of State for Energy.

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

Yours ever,
David

David Barclay

Andrew Allberry, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.

da

"The Government accepts that the UK's energy strategy needs to give full weight to the environmental impact of the use of different fuels. Nuclear energy is already the most highly developed alternative to energy derived from fossil fuels, and its further growth offers one of the most effective ways of reducing air pollution associated with electricity generation. Renewable sources of energy also have a contribution to make, but the immediate task here is to establish the technical and economic feasibility of exploitation of the available technologies on a commercial scale. As part of a continuing programme the Department of Energy spent £11 million on such work in 1983-84.

"Current energy projections, published in 1982, included scenarios which suggest that the share of UK energy demand supplied by nuclear and renewable energies in 2010 might be high as 34 per cent. An important complementary approach is energy conservation; the Government already have a substantial programme to encourage the most efficient use of energy. The Government's assessment of future energy requirements and sources will continue to be available to Parliament and the public."



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 November 1984

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE TENTH REPORT OF
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

The Prime Minister was grateful for Lord Gowrie's minute of 8 November and has noted its contents.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

(DAVID BARCLAY)

Paul Thomas, Esq.,
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office.

89



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Prime Minister⁽²⁾

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Lord Gowrie welcomes the emphasis on openness in the draft response to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

PRIME MINISTER

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO TENTH REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

12/11

I am grateful to Patrick Jenkin for sending me a copy of his minute to you of 2 November, with the proposed response to the Royal Commission's report.

mb

I very much welcome the paper generally because of the positive way in which it presents our approach to environmental problems, and particularly because of its emphasis on providing information to the public. The latter seems to me especially important to us for our handling of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, which is likely to become active again during the new session.

The signs are that the Campaign will probably rest their main Freedom of Information bill and instead try to pick off individual targets that seem to them both "softer" and more likely to catch the popular imagination.

Two other Private Members' bills were introduced last session:

Access to Personal Records, to extend the principles of the Data Protection Act to manual as well as computerised records and give individuals the right to see and check a wide range of information held about them;

Access to Local Authority Information. The bill has already attracted support from a substantial number of our own back benchers.

Two further bills are known to be planned:

Water Authorities - to open up the authorities' meetings to the public again, as before the 1983 legislation,

Environmental Secrecy - to which of course the present paper is very relevant.

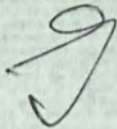
The Campaign's ultimate objective is "a statutory right of access to all information held by government and other public sector bodies, other than that for which specific statutory protection is provided".

It will be surprising if none of the 150 MPs who support legislation of this kind draws a place in the ballot on 15 November. The bills most likely to be taken up are those on personal records and local authorities, but the Campaign's tactics will not be known for certain until the titles of the chosen bills are published on 5 December.

Our best answer to the Campaign is to demonstrate to Parliament and the public that its efforts are unnecessary, and that - as we said in 1979 - our policy is to make as much information available as possible. Although the proposed bills deal with discrete subjects there is obviously a read-across from one area of "open government" to another. Against this background the "presumption of openness" set out at the beginning of Part II of the Government's response to the Royal Commission is particularly useful.

I should be grateful if Patrick's officials would keep in touch with mine as the date of publication approaches, so that we can review the latest position and consider how the message of this paper can be used to best advantage.

I am sending copies of this minute to members of the Cabinet and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

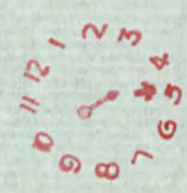


GOWRIE
8 November 1984

Acid Rain

Pt 3

112 NOV 1984



GOVERNMENT



cc/po

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

shp

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
Department of the Environment
Room N16/05
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 3EB

Nov 16
25/11

John Petch

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE TENTH REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

I am responding to your minute of 2 November 1984 to the Prime Minister.

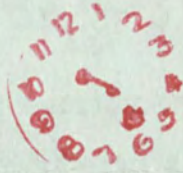
My officials have been involved in the interdepartmental discussions and some of their suggestions for changes have been accepted. I am content that you publish the response in your Pollution Paper series.

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

Norman Fowler

NORMAN FOWLER

119 NOV 1984



[Faint, illegible handwritten text]



NEW ST. ANDREWS HOUSE
EDINBURGH EH1 3SX

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

Walter Jones

14/11 13 November 1984

Dear Patrick,

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE TENTH REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION
ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Thank you for the copy of your letter of 2 November to the Prime Minister with a draft response to the Royal Commission's Tenth Report.

My officials have suggested a few changes and if these can be incorporated I am content with the terms of the response and to its publication in the Pollution Paper series.

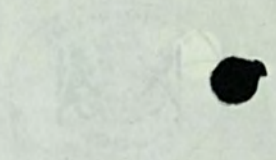
Copies of this letter go to all members of the Cabinet and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours truly,

George

Env. Affairs A3

Acid Rain





2 pp *ccyo*
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-212 3434

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

9 November 1984

Dear Patrick

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12/

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO TENTH REPORT OF THE ROYAL
COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Thank you for copying to me your minute of 2 November
to the Prime Minister about RCEP10.

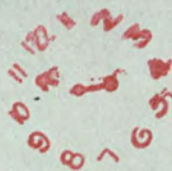
I am content with the passages in response to
recommendations 7.77, 7.78, and 7.79 on diesel engines
and smoke and have no objection to their being included
in our published response to the Report.

I am copyinf this minute and attachments to all members
of the Cabinet and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Nicholas Ridley

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

12 NOV 1981



ENV. Affairs

PT3
Acid Jan



CCND

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

John Ballard Esq
Private Secretary to
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB

9 November 1984

Dear John

nhp
ams
12/11

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE TENTH REPORT OF THE
ROYAL COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION**

Your Secretary of State copied to the Chief Secretary his minute of 2 November to the Prime Minister.

Our officials have seen earlier drafts of the proposed response and I gather your officials are still considering some of our comments. Provided that our comments are taken into account in the final version, the Chief Secretary is content for the response to be published, on the understanding that any extra monitoring, research or other expenditure will be contained within Department's public expenditure baselines; and subject to any costs to Water Authorities arising from the implementation of Part II of the Control of Pollution Act 1974, in particular the cost of any essential work to improve their own discharge consent compliance, being contained within present provision.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely
Richard Broadbent

R J BROADBENT
Private Secretary

112 NOV 1954



Env. Affairs Pt 3

Acid Rain

[Faint handwritten text, possibly a signature or initials]



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

From the Minister

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1

My own done 9/11

8 November 1984

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO TENTH REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION
ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

In your minute dated 2 ^{with DB} November to the Prime Minister you sought colleagues' agreement to publication of the Government's Response.

My officials have participated fully in the extensive inter-departmental preparation of the response. I have noted that the response involves follow up action in a number of areas and I assume your officials will be in touch with mine as appropriate, in particular I would wish my officials to participate in the proposed Working Party on Confidentiality.

I am content with the text and welcome the tenor of the response. I can agree to publication of the response in the DOE Pollution Paper series.

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

MICHAEL JOPLING

Handwritten scribbles



9 NOV 1984

