



V
M

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

15 August 1979

The Rt Hon George Younger TD MP
Secretary of State for Scotland
Scottish Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

DISPOSAL OF NEW TOWN ASSETS

As you know, E(DL) Committee has been examining the prospects for the disposal of public sector assets towards a target of £1 bn in 1979-80 and in the course of this exercise Michael Heseltine has initiated a programme of sales of new town assets fixed at £20m initially but subsequently raised by a further £70m to £90m in all. I attach copies of our exchange of correspondence about the £70m.

This is a significant change in new town policy and it would clearly be wrong to limit it only to the English new towns and exclude those in Scotland and Wales. Accordingly I am writing to propose that you, and Nicholas Edwards to whom I am copying this letter, should similarly set targets for your own new towns.

I would hope that a programme can be put in hand to produce receipts in the current year which can be logged up towards the total amount we are seeking. I would therefore be grateful if you could let me have an assessment of the receipts we might expect the policy to produce if possible by the end of the month.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales, and, for information, to the Prime Minister, other members of E(DL) and to Sir John Hunt.

NIGEL LAWSON

15 AUG 1979



[Faint, illegible text]