



Parliament
1000

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

9 July 1980

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 26 June in which you ask me for a copy of "the recent report to Ministers on the future of the two AGR stations at Heysham II and Torness".

I have considered your request with great care, but have concluded that I should not comply with it. It is well established that advice by officials to Ministers on policy issues is not made available to the House itself or to Select Committees, whether in confidence or otherwise, save in the most exceptional circumstances. It does not seem to me that the circumstances in this case are so exceptional as to justify a departure from the rule. I am sure that the Select Committee on Energy will have no difficulty in making up its own mind on whether the Government's decisions on these two AGR stations were sensible, without access to the work done by the CPRS.

Yours sincerely

Ray

Ian Lloyd, Esq., M.P.

JS