



cc DOE

v1b

*Key Pal*

*CF*

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 August 1981

Dear Sir Alastair

Tom King has told me about the formation of Business in the Community with its aim of encouraging industry and commerce to play a more active role in local communities. I have also heard about its progress from others, including Lord Sieff. I am very pleased to be able to add my good wishes for its success to those you have already received from my colleagues.

I am convinced that there is scope for a much wider involvement of industry and commerce with local communities, and I am pleased that Government Departments are associated with you in your venture. I hope that this association will continue and that, through it, practical projects will be developed.

The recent troubles in some of our inner city areas well illustrate the need for action by all concerned. I hope, therefore, that you will be able to encourage more firms to take a keen interest in meeting the needs of those who live there. This is particularly important in the fields

/ of training

*MD*

of training young people and encouraging small firms which can provide longer-term employment possibilities. I am sure also that it would help a great deal if the commercial expertise of companies could be deployed, in co-operation with central and local government, to develop some of the under utilised sites which blight so many of our inner city areas.

I understand your Council will be formally established in the autumn. Perhaps at that stage you will let me know more about the form it will be taking and whether there are other particular ways in which you feel we could help you.

signed

MT

Sir Alastair Pilkington, F.R.S.