



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

25 April 1983

*My dear Reggie.*

*Ian!*

*Since writing this I am  
apprehensive of our meeting  
with David Howell's African  
Tuesday next at 5.0pm*

*Ken.*

*28/4.*

I am very grateful to you for the copy of your letter of the 8 April, to John Stanley. I have heard that there is a hold-up in the programme approval for the electrification of the Tonbridge/Hastings line, caused by an Adviser at Cabinet level questioning the cost effectiveness of BR's programme. I have written to Ian Gow about this seeking to offer any help which any of us can give and proffered my own experience as a systems analyst to help the said Adviser through the dilemma which he has posed.

As you appreciate very well we are eating into the time that British Rail have said is essential for work to be in progress in order that the line will not have to be closed because the job could not be completed before the rolling stock literally collapses. Should the line be closed for this, or any other reason determined by the Adviser, then there will be tremendously increased demands for swift expenditure on roads in the region to carry the extra commuter traffic and for a bigger investment by British Rail in the remaining operational carparks at Tonbridge and northwards. (I doubt if space is available anyway for extra car parking).

I am becoming very concerned that the Adviser, who I am sure is extremely well qualified, may not appreciate that what he may see only as a local railway problem, does not realise that his analysis may miss the macro-economic transportation problems of the whole area which are really quite horrendous. Compared with the Government aid which has been given over the last 30 years to nearly every other part of the country we have had a raw deal.

*Yours sincerely,  
Ken.*

Reginald Eyre Esq MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department of Transport  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1

cc Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith MP  
Rt Hon Bryant Godman Irvine MP  
Patrick Mayhew Esq QC MP  
John Stanley Esq MP  
Ian Gow Esq MP

# PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

For answer on:.....  
(DAY) (DATE)

If ORAL  
insert **X**

If for  
**WRITTEN**  
**ANSWER**  
leave blank

If for  
**PRIORITY**  
**WRITTEN**  
insert **W**  
and give  
date for  
answer

Name.....

Constituency (.....):

To ask.....  
The Secretary of State for Transport

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

1. What fees have been or will be paid to Messrs Price Waterhouse for advice to the British Railways Board on its forward planning for work carried out in 1981/2 prior to the Board's providing its 1982-86 Plan to the Serpell Committee on 1.11.82?
2. What further fees have been or are expected to be paid to Messrs Price Waterhouse by the British Railways Board in respect of work carried out since 1.1.1980?
3. How many other firms were invited to submit quotations for the work in (1) and (2) above?
4. Which other consultants have been engaged by the Board since 1.1.1982 to advise the Board concerning matters in the Serpell Report; what fees they are expected to receive; and how many other consultants were invited to submit proposals for the same work?
5. How many consultants have been engaged on other work for the Board since 1.1.1982 and what total fees have been or will be paid to them for work since then?
6. On how many appointments or substantial extensions of appointments did consultants advise the Board during 1982; how many proposals were invited for these appointments; and on what proportion of the consultancy work, by value, Transmark was involved?

Signed.....

~~To ask The Secretary of State for Transport, in relation to the railway functions of the British Railways Board (including its Regions)~~

(i) <sup>TO</sup> ~~concerning the appointment of Messrs Price Waterhouse~~  
~~for advice to the British Railways Board~~  
1. ~~to advise the Board on its forward planning, (what fees have been or will be paid) for work carried out in 1981/2 prior to the Board's providing its 1982-86 Plan to the Serpell Committee on 1.11.82~~

(ii) <sup>BY THE BRITISH RAILWAYS BOARD</sup> ~~what further fees have been or are expected to be paid to Messrs Price Waterhouse under the same appointment or any extension of it or any additional appointment related to forward planning~~  
~~in respect of work carried out since 1.1.1980~~  
QUOTATIONS

(iii) ~~how many other firms were invited to submit proposals for the work in (1) and (2) above~~

(iv) ~~whether Messrs Price Waterhouse have been engaged by the Board on any other matter in 1982 or 1983; if so what and what are the fees involved~~

(v) <sup>CONSULTANTS</sup> ~~which other consulting organisations have been engaged by the Board in 1983 to advise the Board concerning matters in the Serpell Report; what fees they are expected to receive; and how many other organisations were invited to submit proposals for the same work~~  
<sup>SINCE 1.1.1982</sup>  
<sup>CONSULTANTS</sup>

(vi) <sup>CONSULTANTS</sup> ~~how many other consulting organisations were engaged on work for the Board during 1982 and what total fees have been or will be paid to them for work in that year~~  
<sup>OTHER</sup> <sup>SINCE 1.1.1982</sup>  
<sup>HAVE BEEN</sup> <sup>SINCE THEN</sup>

(vii) <sup>CONSULTANTS ADVISED THE</sup> ~~on how many appointments or substantial extensions of appointments were let to consulting organisations by the Board during 1982; how many proposals were invited for these appointments; and on what proportion of the consultancy work, by value, Transmark were involved.~~  
<sup>WAS</sup>