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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

28 October 1983

Dear Robin,

Thank you for your letter of 1 October about the delay in the delivery of a letter to you from the Home Office.

I understand that as part of our general policy of using postal services economically as possible it has been the Home Office practice for letters from their Ministers to Members to be sent by second class post, except in cases where there is a clear reason to believe a reply is urgently required when first class post or special messenger delivery has been used.

The Home Office have, however, been reviewing this practice as part of an overall review of the handling of Ministerial correspondence and their conclusion, to which your own representations have added weight, is that all letters from Home Office Ministers should now be sent by first class post.

I can readily understand your annoyance about delays in receiving correspondence. To the extent that the

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reason for these lies at the door of the Post Office they are of course beyond the control of Government Departments. But I hope this decision will go some way to resolving such problems as you may have experienced in the past with correspondence from the Home Office.

Yours
Robert Maxwell-Hyslop

Robert Maxwell-Hyslop, Esq., M.P.