



Press Office
~~Handwritten~~

1. Mr Loughton o/v
2. Cite

You asked me
about this cutting

Civil Service Department
Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ
01-273 4400

29 December 1980

MA 29/12

M Pattison Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Mike

AA
MA

QUANGOS

Thank you for your letter of 22 December to Jim Buckley with which you enclosed this press cutting from the West Lancashire Gazette of 13 December.

The article clearly refers to the statement the Prime Minister made on 3 December in reply to a PQ from Philip Holland. You will recall that she said "We shall approve proposals for new bodies if we can be convinced that the function is essential and that a non-departmental body is the most appropriate way to do the job - as in the case of the Urban Development Corporations and other bodies we have set up". Admittedly, the Answer did not quote a figure for the expenditure of these new bodies but that does not alter the fact that the decisions which Ministers have taken will lead to a very substantial saving in public expenditure by the time all of them have been implemented. I do not know where the figure of £13.2 million for expenditure in this year comes from. But, certainly, it is true that the expenditure of bodies created since May 1979 will eventually exceed the savings from abolition or merger of existing bodies. The Urban Development Corporations alone are expected to spend over £100 million a year.

The other figures quoted in the article are correct.

Yours sincerely
Vivien Life

VIVIEN LIFE
APS LORD PRESIDENT

Govt Mad ^{Jim}

22 December 1980

I enclose a press cutting which has been brought to my attention. I should be grateful for your comments on the figures quoted.

M. A. PATTISON

Jim Buckley, Esq.,
Lord President's Office.

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Whitehall's quango ^{Info.} fandango . . .

By David Sapsted

THE Prime Minister recently announced to Parliament that about £11.6 million a year would be saved by 1983-84 thanks to the latest clampdown on old quangos.

What she omitted to mention was that new ones created by her own Government would cost £13.2 million this year alone. And there is millions more — to come in 1981.

Indeed, while this Government has fulfilled its pledge substantially to reduce the total of 3,000-plus quangos, it seems certain it will end up spending record amounts on what remains.

The facts emerge from inquiries I have made at more than a dozen Govern-

ment departments throughout the UK.

It appears that while many of the obscure, small and obsolete quangos — bodies established and paid for by Government departments but independent of them — have disappeared, more powerful and bigger spending ones are being created.

Pressure

Commented Conservative MP Mr Philip Holland, the Commons' most indefatigable quango hunter: "Until now, I have been overwhelmed by sheer numbers. Now I have the opportunity to concentrate on certain areas and larger quangos.

"The creation of new ones must be kept under constant review. Within the Whitehall establishment there is fairly stiff resistance to change. Unless we keep up the pressure they will simply fall back into their old ways."

The Government admits to the creation of 21 quangos since it came to power and, rightly, claims to have abolished or merged 436 existing ones in the same time.

"Whenever bodies are no longer needed," said Mrs Thatcher, "they will be wound up."

"There are always pressures for the creation of new bodies. We shall be robust in resisting them."

West & Lewis

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13.12.88



Govt Mail

Civil Service Department
Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ
01-273 4400

From the Private Secretary

25 September 1980

Mike Pattison Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Mike,

MP

QUANGOS

You spoke to me about the pieces in today's newspapers about Philip Holland's new quango hunt. I am getting hold of a copy of the booklet as soon as possible and will let you have a note.

In the meantime, you might like to have the following points to hand for the Prime Minister.

1. Philip Holland regards some bodies as quangos which the Pliatzky Report saw rather differently (the Government Hospitality Wine Tasting Committee may be a good joke but it has nothing to do with quangos);
2. Ministers have already taken firm decisions to retain at least some of the bodies listed by Mr Holland - for example, the Manpower Services Commission;
3. We shall be letting you have a report on the mopping up operation following the Pliatzky Report in a week or so. That will certainly contain recommendations for the demise of a goodly number of quangos and it may well be some of those will correspond with Mr Holland's list. I understand we have in mind to recommend the axing of the best part of 200.

*Yours sincerely,
Jim Buckley.*

J BUCKLEY

25 SEP 1960



COMPTON

For Mr. Mackenzie
PRIME MINISTER

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON S.W.1



From the Minister

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The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1

31 January 1980

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MS

--- During Question Time in the House on 17 January, Philip Holland asked you about the Coypu Strategy Group. In view of your interest, I am sending you a copy of the letter that I have sent to him.

Peter Walker

PETER WALKER

P W Holland Esq MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

28 January 1980

AW

During Question Time in the House on 17 January you asked the Prime Minister to find out from me why the Coypu Strategy Group had not been covered in the Pliatsky Report.

The Coypu Strategy Group was a small ad hoc Committee of six set up in April 1977 with the following Terms of Reference:-

"On the basis of current scientific knowledge to assess the prospects of eradicating coypus in Great Britain over the longer term; and in the light of this, and having regard to any public expenditure implications, to report on:

- a. the nature, likely consequences, costs and benefits of alternative forms of control action which might be adopted over the next decade; and
- b. the nature and cost of any research provision which might be associated with control options

and to make recommendations".

They reported in May 1978, whereafter they were disbanded. None of the members received a fee and their travelling, subsistence and related expenses amounted in all to £345. It may interest you to have the enclosed copy of their Report.

A campaign to eradicate coypu on lines suggested by the Group was announced by Jerry Wiggin on 25 January in answer to a Question by John Farr.

PETER WALKER

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FEB 24 1980