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Prime Minister

MUS 15/1

2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB

BF

My ref:

Your ref:

14 January 1982

Dear Home Secretary

RAYNER SCRUTINY OF THE CUSTODY GUARD SERVICE

I am writing to tell you of the outcome of a recent Rayner Scrutiny, undertaken by PSA, of the Custody Guard Service. The Service, which is provided by PSA, gives predominantly silent hours protection to 140 government buildings and sites in the Greater London area. It involves around 800 industrial staff and the annual wages bill is currently about £7 million.

The report, while broadly endorsing the service provided, made a number of recommendations for change in both funding arrangements and working practices. It recommended that Departments should be responsible for reviewing the level of service required and should be charged for the service provided. This latter recommendation will be met by including the cost of the Custody Service in the accommodation charge under the new repayment (PRS) arrangements that take effect in April next year. I have asked my officials to review the charges made to existing repayment clients.

The recommendations for changes in working practices and security arrangements are more complex and have to be considered within the framework of agreed national security standards and clients' operational requirements. These proposals include provision for Departments to consider using private sector security services, subject to the agreement of the Cabinet Office Security Adviser and to the extent that this can be done without causing redundancies in the Custody Guard Service. My officials have had discussions with the Security Adviser and they will shortly be putting forward detailed proposals for consideration by individual Departments. I hope that you and other Cabinet colleagues will agree that these discussions should be carried forward at official level and that your Department will be prepared to undertake the necessary review of procedures with the aim of reducing costs and improving the efficiency of the service provided. I have asked my officials to report progress by mid 1982.

Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,  
Helen Ghosh

MICHAEL HESELTINE  
(approved by the Secretary of State  
and signed in his absence)

15 JAN 1962





Wm  
2/2

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-928 9222

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP  
Secretary of State  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 3EB

2 February 1982

Dear Michael,

RAYNER SCRUTINY OF THE CUSTODY GUARD SERVICE

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 14 January to Willie Whitelaw about the Custody Guard Service.

I am of course content for officials to discuss the changes you have in mind. However it is surely a necessary consequence of moving to repayment that departments should have a much bigger say in deciding how their own requirements are met. I should therefore like to reserve judgement on the change to repayment until it is clear what freedom of action can in practice be allowed.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other Cabinet colleagues and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Ever,  
Kuri

1/24/82  
1/24/82



FEB 2 1982

*[Faint, illegible handwritten text]*



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT  
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EP

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON SW1

VMP

29 January 1982

Dear Michael

RAYNER SCRUTINY OF THE PSA CUSTODY GUARD SERVICE

Thank you for the copy of your letter of 14 January to the Home Secretary about the provision of custody guard services for government buildings in Greater London.

My Department's use of the present PSA service is for the most part a joint common service arrangement with central DOE; although we do have PSA custody guards in the Metropolitan Traffic Area Office at Acton, a shared building in which we are the major occupiers.

I certainly support the proposals you outline in your letter and my officials will give urgent consideration to the more detailed propositions which I note will be coming to the Department following your people's discussion with the Cabinet Office Security Adviser.

I assume that appropriate funding arrangements will be made to cover the additional financial burden that will fall on Departments under the proposed changes. And should it not prove practicable to use private security firms at particular sites there could be manpower implications for us.

Yours

David  
DAVID HOWELL



21 FEB 1992