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1.



PRIME MINISTER.

Progress.

You will be seeing Sir L. Platts-Jones, Sir D. Rayner and Sir I. Bancroft next week. Do you want to agree now to Mr Heselline's proposal to make an announcement in September, or would you prefer to wait until after that meeting? M.P. 22/11/71

Prime Minister

QUANGOS

I am quite happy for him to make an announcement in September. It should come out of the mouth!

I have now completed the review of all the Quangos within my responsibility, including nationalised industries and administrative tribunals. Royal Commissions are being considered separately (Sir Ian Bancroft's letter of 5 June to Sir Douglas Wass refers).

There are 125 bodies in all but only 62 distinct types of organisation (eg there were 8 EPCs). My initial conclusions are:-

To retain 63

To abolish 36 (a further 20 are self-extinguishing in due course); and

Having discussed the matter with Norman St John Stevas, to transfer 3 to the Minister for Arts (I will be putting proposals to you on this in due course).

There are 3 other Quangos that I am still considering.

I attach for simplicity schedules showing the detailed breakdown of these proposals

Schedule A indicates those which are to be abolished or which are self-destructing in due course.

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Schedule B indicates those which are to be retained  
Schedule C indicates those which are still under  
consideration.

Together with my Ministers I have carefully examined the case for retaining each body and I have kept only those where it is clear that the task can neither be dispensed with completely nor dealt with within the Department. Most of those retained have some executive function or are administrative tribunals. Many bodies whose sole purpose is to offer advice are to be abolished. I see little need to formalise sources of advice in this way except occasionally for specific defined tasks (eg the Advisory Committee on Local Government Audit) and there is a tendency for Ministers to use such bodies to avoid responsibility for decisions. I see no need to do this and would generally prefer to seek advice on an ad hoc basis as necessary.

The only announcements so far in my area have been on the Economic Planning Councils and on the Construction Industry Manpower Board (the latter because it was necessary to give some future certainty to the Board's membership whose collective appointments expired on 9 August). Some of the decisions will need to be discussed with colleagues; but, with the exception of those few bodies which will require much longer consideration,

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I expect to be in a position to make a general statement by the second week of September.

I would propose to make one further announcement then covering all these bodies unless you would prefer to have a single announcement later for the whole Government.

I am sending copies of this minute to other members of Cabinet, Norman Fowler, Sir Ian Bancroft, Sir John Hunt and Sir Derek Rayner.

22 AUGUST 1979

*hmf*

MH

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SCHEDULE A

QUANGOS TO BE ABOLISHED - 36

Advisory Committee on Bird Sanctuaries in the Royal Parks

Advisory Committee on Housing Co-operatives

Advisory Committee on Trees in the Royal Parks

Ancient Monuments Board for Rescue Archaeology (to be re-absorbed  
by Ancient Monuments Board)

Area Archaeological Advisory Committees (13)

Clean Air Council

Construction and Housing Research Advisory Council

Construction Industry Manpower Board (on completion of work in hand,  
but not later than August 1980)

Detergents and Allied Products; Voluntary Notification Scrutiny Group  
Environmental Board

Hadrians Wall Advisory Committee (to be re-absorbed by Ancient  
Monuments Board)

Housing Associations Registration Advisory Group

Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council

• Location of Offices Bureau.

Planning and Transportation Research Advisory Council

Regional Economic Planning Councils (8)

Standing Technical Committee on Synthetic Detergents

QUANGOS RETAINED FOR THE PRESENT BUT WHICH WILL BE ABOLISHED IN  
DUE COURSE - 20

Commission for the New Towns

? Lawn Tennis Committee

New Town Development Corporations (16)

New Towns Staff Commission

Recreation Management Training Committee

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## QUANGOS TO BE RETAINED - 63

Advisory Committee on Local Government Audit  
 Advisory Committee on the Protection of Birds  
 Advisory Committee on Rent Rebates and Rent Allowances  
 Advisory Panel on Institutional Finance in New Towns  
 Ancient Monuments Board  
 British Waterways Board  
 Building Regulations Advisory Committee  
 Building Research Establishment Advisory Committee  
 Commission on Energy and Environment  
 Commission for Local Administration in England  
 Commons Commissioners  
 Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (COSIRA)  
 ? Countryside Commission  
 Development Commission  
 Historic Buildings Council  
 Housing Corporation  
 Housing Services Advisory Group )  
 Letchworth Garden City Corporation  
 Local Government Boundary Commission  
 Local Valuation Court Organisation  
 National Building Agency  
 National Consultative Council for the Building and Civil  
     Engineering Industries  
 National Parks Planning Boards (7)  
 National Water Council  
 Nature Conservancy Council  
 Noise Advisory Council  
 ? Property Advisory Group  
 Radioactive Waste Management Committee  
 Regional Water Authorities (10)  
 Rent Assessment Panels (15)  
 ? Scientific Authority for Animals - Home Office?  
 Sports Council  
 Waste Management Advisory Committee  
 Water Space Amenity Commission

## QUANGOS TO BE PASSED TO MINISTER FOR ARTS - 3

Advisory Committee on the Purchase of Works of Art  
 Advisory Committee on Works of Art in the House of Commons  
 Committee on Sculptures in the Royal Parks

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SCHEDULE C

QUANGOS ON WHICH MORE TIME IS NEEDED TO REACH A DECISION - 3

Agreement Board

Centre for Environmental Studies

Hydraulics Research Station Advisory Committee

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SECRET  
TO THE DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM THE DIRECTOR, CIA  
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

22 AUG 1979

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FILE

10 DOWNING STREET

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D. Rayner

From the Private Secretary

24 August 1979

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's minute of 22 August, reporting the results of his review of quangos falling within his responsibility.

The Prime Minister is content that he should make a statement about his own review. She would wish this to be in a form which does not preclude consideration of further abolitions or reductions in the future. It would be helpful if we could see a copy of this draft of his announcement before it is made.

I confirm, therefore, that the Prime Minister does not have it in mind to have a single comprehensive announcement about action taken by the Government as a whole on quangos.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to other members of Cabinet, including the Minister of Transport, and to David Laughrin (Civil Service Department), Martin Vile (Cabinet Office) and Clive Priestley in Sir Derek Rayner's office.

M. A. PATTISON

D. A. Edmonds, Esq.,  
Department of the Environment.

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CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AZ

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Switchboard 01 273 3000

From Sir Leo Pliatzky

24 August 1979

M A Pattison Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
No. 10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

*Dear Pattison,*

QUANGOS

May I make the following comments on Mr Heseltine's letter of 22 August. I see no reason why the wider exercise need hold up an announcement of those bodies in the Department of the Environment's field which are to be abolished in the near future. His letter does not make it altogether clear whether the announcement would also cover those bodies which are to be retained for the present but which will be abolished in due course; but, though there may be complications about the future of the Commission for the New Towns in particular, here too I do not see that the wider exercise should in itself be an obstacle to an announcement.

But, although I imagine that the Prime Minister will want to congratulate Mr Heseltine on his proposals, I hope that her response will not imply that the Department of the Environment can now opt out of all aspects of the wider exercise. At the least we will want them to co-operate in putting together a complete survey of the non-Departmental bodies which will remain, after bringing into account those which are to be abolished, and in reviewing the arrangements for the accountability of non-Departmental bodies.

Mr Heseltine will no doubt clear his proposed announcement with the Prime Minister in due course, and perhaps at that stage I could have a further opportunity to comment, if necessary.

I am sending copies of this to Ian Bancroft and Derek Rayner.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Leo Pliatzky*  
LEO PLIATZKY





*T/L*  
 Please check that Sir  
 Leo Pliatsky is happy  
 with this.  
*MAP 2/1x*

2 MARSHAM STREET  
 LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref:

Your ref:

7 September 1979

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of 24 August (which we received on 30 August), confirming that the Prime Minister is content with my Secretary of State's proposal to announce the outcome of his review of quangos in the second week of September and asking to see a draft of the announcement.

I now attach a draft press notice which includes the announcement which Mr Heseltine wishes to make on Wednesday 12 September, and to which are attached lists of the quangos to be wound up and of the remainder. Since my Secretary of State wrote to the Prime Minister on 22 August, he has additionally decided to withdraw funding from the Centre for Environmental Studies. He also intends to make it clear that he regards this announcement as only an interim statement, since the bodies listed for retention will remain under review, and some may also be wound up at a later stage.

I would be glad if you could give clearance to this announcement as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter to the private secretaries of other members of the Cabinet and of the Minister of Transport, Sir Ian Bancroft, Sir John Hunt, Sir Derek Rayner and Sir Leo Pliatsky.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Paul Bristow*

P N BRISTOW  
 Private Secretary

Prime Minister

*I suggest you might discuss this with Mr Heseltine after your meeting with him and stress on Urban Development Corporations. Leo Pliatsky (Play#) suggests that para 3 be deleted while the future of the 3 quangos referred to is considered further.*

Mike Pattison Esq

12 September 1979

MICHAEL HESELTINE AXES QUANGOS

Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, today announced the abolition of nearly half of the Quangos\* sponsored by the Department of the Environment.

Mr Heseltine said in his statement:

"1. I am now in a position to announce my decisions on a considerable number of Quangos sponsored by my Department

2. I am responsible for 119 Quangos. Together with announcements already made 57 of these will either cease in due course, under existing plans, or will be wound up as a result of my decision. I also propose to run down the funds which my Department provides to the Centre for Environmental Studies.

3. In addition I am arranging to transfer 3 Quangos to Norman St John Stevas, whose responsibilities make him the appropriate Minister to <sup>consider the future of</sup> sponsor these bodies. They are the Advisory Committee on the Purchase of Works of Art;

the Advisory Committee on Works of Art in the House of Commons; and the Advisory Committee on Sculpture in the Royal Parks.

4. The Quangos sponsored by the Department of the Environment are thus to be reduced from 119 to 57. The attached list shows those which are to go, and those which are to remain.

5. It seems right to me to announce my conclusions in that I am now able to make a significant statement of our progress.

6. It must remain our responsibility to keep the existence of all the bodies of this sort under review, and indeed the Prime Minister has recently announced that Sir Leo Pliatsky is to take overall charge of the Government's commitment in this field. My Department is already cooperating with Sir Leo in this work.

7. When put into effect my decisions will lead to savings of about £1.4m a year and about 60 staff. They will also result in the abolition of 590 Quango appointments.

8. I would like to thank all those who have contributed time and enthusiasm to the bodies which will cease to exist. In many cases this advice will remain necessary and still be sought, but in a less institutionalised framework. In others, time has overtaken the original arguments for the establishment of the organisations; and in still others, their existence was intended to be only for a limited time, which I do not intend to renew. And again, in some cases, it seems to me right that the advice available to Government should be sought from a wider range of people."

NOTE TO EDITORS:

\*QUANGOS - Quasi Autonomous Non-Governmental Organisations

QUANGOS TO BE ABOLISHED

Advisory Committee on Bird Sanctuaries in the Royal Parks  
Advisory Committee on Housing Co-operatives  
Advisory Committee on Trees in the Royal Parks  
Ancient Monuments Board for Rescue Archaeology (to be re-absorbed  
by Ancient Monuments Board)  
  
Area Archaeological Advisory Committees (13) (residual functions  
to be performed by the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments  
and Historic Buildings on advice from the Ancient Monuments Board)  
  
Clean Air Council  
Construction and Housing Research Advisory Council  
Construction Industry Manpower Board  
Detergents and Allied Products; Voluntary Notification Scheme  
Scrutiny Group  
  
Environmental Board  
Hadrian's Wall Advisory Committee (to be re-absorbed by Ancient  
Monuments Board)  
  
Housing Associations Registration Advisory Committee  
Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Committee  
Location of Offices Bureau  
Planning and Transportation Research Advisory Council  
Regional Economic Planning Councils (8)  
Standing Technical Committee on Synthetic Detergents

QUANGOS TO BE RETAINED FOR THE PRESENT BUT WHICH WILL BE  
WOUND-UP IN DUE COURSE

Advisory Panel on Institutional Finance in New Towns  
Commission for the New Towns  
New Town Development Corporations (16)  
New Towns Staff Commission  
Committee to Examine the Standards of Lawn Tennis in Great Britain

QUANGOS FROM WHICH FUNDS WILL BE WITHDRAWN

Centre for Environmental Studies

QUANGOS TO BE PASSED TO MINISTER FOR ARTS

Advisory Committee on the Purchase of Works of Art  
Advisory Committee on Works of Art in the House of Commons  
Committee on Sculptures in the Royal Parks.

QUANGOS TO BE RETAINED OR FURTHER CONSIDERED

Advisory Committee on Local Government Audit  
Advisory Committee on the Protection of Birds  
Advisory Committee on Rent Rebates and Rent Allowances  
Agreement Board  
Ancient Monuments Board  
British Waterways Board  
Building Regulations Advisory Committee  
Building Research Establishment Advisory Committee  
Commission on Energy and Environment  
Commission for Local Administration in England  
Commons Commissioners  
Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas  
Countryside Commission  
Development Commission  
Historic Buildings Council  
Housing Corporation  
Housing Services Advisory Group  
Hydraulics Research Station Advisory Committee  
Letchworth Garden City Corporation  
Local Government Boundary Commission  
Local Valuation Court Organisation  
National Building Agency  
National Consultative Council for the Building and Civil Engineering  
Industries  
National Parks Planning Boards (2)  
National Water Council  
Nature Conservancy Council  
Noise Advisory Council  
Property Advisory Group  
Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee  
Regional Water Authorities (9)  
Rent Assessment Panels (15)  
Scientific Authority for Animals  
Sports Council  
Waste Management Advisory Committee  
Water Space Amenity Commission

- 7 SEP 1979





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SIR LEO PLIATZKY KCB  
OLD ADMIRALTY BUILDING  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AZ  
TELEPHONE 01-273 3759

T P Lankester Esq  
No. 10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1

10 September 1979

*Dear Tim,*

QUANGOS : DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

I am grateful for the copy sent to me of the draft Press Notice headed "Michael Heseltine Axes Quangos". My principal comment is that, if the proposed separate announcement on Urban Development Corporations is approved, some care will be needed to avoid the appearance of inconsistency in the Government's attitude to quangos. If the proposal on Urban Development Corporations does not go ahead - and the expenditure aspect will no doubt be the most important consideration of substance - this presentational point will not arise.

2. Paragraph 3 of the statement refers to three quangos which it is proposed to transfer to Mr St John Stevas. Sir Ian Bancroft's office tell me that he has reservations about this part of the statement, since we ought to consider whether one of these bodies, the Committee on Sculptures in the Royal Parks, which has hardly ever met, might be wound up rather than transferred; while the Advisory Committee on Works of Art in the House of Commons might become the responsibility of the House itself, as is the case with the House of Lords counterpart. As regards the Advisory Committee on the Transfer of Works of Art, the question is whether it is the best arrangement for the Department of the Environment to shed responsibility for the Committee while keeping responsibility for buying and looking after the works of art themselves, if that is the intention.

3. One does not want to make a great issue of such small matters, but equally would anything be lost if paragraph 3 of the draft were left out while these little points are sorted out?

4. I am sending copies of this to the Private Secretaries to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and to Sir Ian Bancroft and Sir Derek Rayner.

*Yours,*  
*Leo? [Signature]*  
LEO PLIATZKY

SEP 1976

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COMMUNICATIONS



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cc Cabinet  
Minister of Transport  
Sir Ian Bancroft  
Sir John Hunt  
Sir Derek Rayner  
Sir Leo Pliatzky

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 September 1979

Dear Paul.

The Prime Minister has considered the draft press notice on Quangos attached to your letter of 7 September. She has also considered the points raised by Sir Leo Pliatzky in his letter of 10 September.

The Prime Minister had a word with your Secretary of State about the draft this morning, and they agreed that - in order to take on board the point which Sir Leo has made about the three Quangos which are to be transferred to the Chancellor of the Duchy - the first sentence of paragraph 3 of the press notice should read as follows:

"In addition I am arranging to transfer three Quangos to Norman St. John Stevas, whose responsibilities make him the appropriate Minister to consider the future of these bodies."

With this small change, the Prime Minister is content with the draft press notice.

I am sending copies of this letter to Private Secretaries to members of the Cabinet, the Minister of Transport, Sir Ian Bancroft, Sir John Hunt, Sir Derek Rayner and Sir Leo Pliatzky.

Yours  
w.

T. L.

P.N. Bristow, Esq.,  
Department of the Environment.

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