

FILE
APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE



PL note ^{Parliament} master
list of PPSs.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 October 1979

I am writing to confirm that the Prime Minister would be content for the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to invite Mr. Chris Patten, M.P., to serve as his Parliamentary Private Secretary. Perhaps you could let me know, for the record, if Mr. Patten agrees to take the post.

I am sending copies of this letter to Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

M. A. PATTISON

John Stevens, Esq.,
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office.

ASB

PRIME MINISTER

I understand that Mr. St. John-Stevas has secured the Chief Whip's agreement to nominating Chris Patten as his PPS.

You were not prepared to approve new Members at the beginning of Parliament. Mr. St. John-Stevas has waited until now because he is particularly anxious to have Mr. Patten, both for his knowledge of the new MPs and for his understanding of the major elements in policy thinking. Both these would be of considerable help to the Leader of the House. In addition, Mr. St. John-Stevas has it in mind that Mr. Patten would be able to offer considerable assistance in the background, particularly whilst the question of possible further Ministerial assistance remains unresolved.

Are you prepared to agree to his inviting Mr. Patten to serve as his PPS?

MA

Yes Sir.

19 October, 1979.