



CONFIDENTIAL

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref:

Your ref:

19 December 1979

Dear Mike

You copied to us your letter of 11 December to John Chilcot forwarding a proof copy of Sir Leo Pliatzky's report, following his review of non-Departmental Public Bodies.

My Secretary of State agrees with the text of the report and its content for it to be cleared without discussion in Cabinet. He wishes to make one point, however, on the proposal that the Government should forthwith announce its approval of all the "Lessons for the Future", in respect of paragraph 73.

My Secretary of State has reservations about proposals to allow the C & AG access to the books of all new public bodies which fall short of being fully commercial, such as the new Urban Development Corporations. This could mean that the C & AG might be examining accounts which had already been audited, submitted to the Secretary of State and in turn laid by him before Parliament - after which of course it would be open to Parliament to ask the Secretary of State for any additional information they wanted. In short, the proposal could lead to a duplication of effort, at a time when Government policy is to reduce the size of the public sector.

There are a few drafting points which we wish to raise, as in the attached list which has already been passed to Sir Leo Pliatzky.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely
Paul Bristow

P N BRISTOW
Private Secretary

Mike Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFTING AMENDMENTS

PART I

Page 7 - paragraph 29. Against entries for Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council and Location of Offices Bureau: delete "Employment" and insert "the Environment".

Annex B2

In heading add 's' to "corporation". And correct spelling of "England" in para 1.

Paras 4 and 7 for "16 September" read "17 September".

Annex B4

Page 34 paragraph 10. In the final sentence insert "as a result" before "the total"

Chapter 8

Page 68 - paragraph 4. The total of column 2 should be "76,517"

Page 69 - paragraph 5. Line 18: after "Board" insert "Committee"

Line 37: delete "Applied" and insert "Allied".

Page 70 - paragraph 5. Line 21: after "Tennis" insert "in Great Britain".

Page 73 - Other Bodies. Paragraph number should be 8.

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