

ck JV



From the Secretary of State

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
Treasury Chambers
Parliament Street
London, SW1P 3AR

26 February 1982

Dear Geoffrey,

CONSUMER REPRESENTATION IN THE NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES

As you know, Sally Oppenheim/^{pp 5} successfully launched the NICC consultative document in December. The demand for it has been encouraging and comments have started to arrive.

As part of the consultative process I believe it would be helpful if I were to meet the Chairmen of the nationalised industries concerned. One objective would be to allay any fears they might have this is an industry-bashing exercise. But more important, though doubtless we shall get written views by the 15 March closing date, we ought to profit from hearing the Chairmen themselves across the table on the effectiveness of the NICCs and what changes we might seek; and from discussing ways in which improved working relationships between the industries and the NICCs can be brought about.

I imagine that such a meeting would be best arranged through the Nationalised Industries Chairmen's Group. Given the subject matter, I would propose that I took the meeting rather than impose on you. Some sponsoring Departments might also wish to be represented at Ministerial level.



From the Secretary of State

I should be grateful for your reactions both to the idea of a meeting and the way it should be handled.

I am copying this letter to recipients of earlier correspondence on the NICC Review.

Yours

John Biffen

JOHN BIFFEN

*Not final
GC 5V*

Nat Ind policy



*Prime Minister (2)
ms 22/3*

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The Rt Hon John Biffen MP
Secretary of State for Trade
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street
LONDON SW1

19 March 1982

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Dear John

attached

attached Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 26 February to Geoffrey Howe about the NICCs Review.

I agree that it would be helpful for you to meet the Chairmen of the industries covered by NICCs to discuss the Review, and I am sure that Sir Peter Parker would welcome the opportunity. My new Parliamentary Under Secretary of State with responsibility for the transport industries, Reginald Eyre, is familiar with the NICCs from his time in your Department and I suggest that he should attend.

Yours in

David

DAVID HOWELL



18 MAR 1982