



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

2 MARSHAM STREET

LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-212 7601

MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION

Michael Scholar Esq  
PS/Prime Minister  
No 10 Downing Street

8 December 1982

*Dear Michael,*

/ I attach as requested a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Mr G M Fordy of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers in response to his letter of 18 November. Mr Fordy has also written separately enclosing his letter to the Prime Minister to the Secretary of State for the Environment and he will be sending a detailed reply to this letter shortly.

*Yours sincerely,*

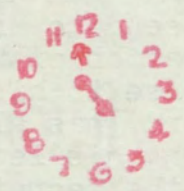
*J H Cleary*

J H CLEARY  
Private Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
215 EAST 44th STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION

4  
8 DEC 1982





*M type for PM  
MS 8/12*

DRAFT REPLY FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO  
G M FORBY ESQ, PRESIDENT, THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
BUILDING TRADES EMPLOYERS, 82 NEW CAVENDISH STREET,  
LONDON W1M 8AD

Thank you for your letter of 18 November about  
our recent initiative to increase the level of  
capital expenditure this year.

I very much welcome the positive approach which  
your Federation has adopted. You will be glad  
to know that since local authorities were invited  
on 29 October to apply for additional capital  
allocations for 1982-83, extra allocations totalling  
some £190m, including £110M for housing, have  
been approved. In addition, authorities have  
been told that they may increase their expenditure  
on improvement grants this year without limit,  
and without the need to submit prior bids. The  
response to our initiative to reduce the prospective  
underspend is therefore encouraging.

I am grateful too for the proposals in the paper  
enclosed with your letter, which I read with interest.  
I am of course keen to ensure that we do all we  
can to remove any unnecessary obstacles preventing  
authorities making full use of the capital resources  
at their disposal. I have asked Michael Heseltine  
to reply to you direct on the detailed proposals  
you make.





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

22 November 1982

BF 6-12-82

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

I enclose copies of two letters which the Prime Minister has received about capital underspending: one from Councillor Bowness of the London Boroughs Association and the other from Mr. Fordy, the President of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers.

I should be grateful for draft replies for the Prime Minister's signature by Monday 6 December, if at all possible.

SCOLAR

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

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

22 November 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 18 November, which I shall place before her at once.

M. C. SCHOLAR

G.M. Fordy, Esq.





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

22 November 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 18 November, which I shall place before her at once.

M. C. SCHOLAR

Councillor P.S. Bowness, CBE, DL.