

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister (2) CC 150



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Privy Council Office
68 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AT

25 July 1983

Dear Patrick,

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RATE LIMITATION LEGISLATION

Your minute of 29 June to the Prime Minister discussed amongst other things the nature of the Parliamentary procedure to be applied to the rejection of rate level determinations. In particular you asked whether orders laid before the House should deal with only one local authority per order, or whether composite Orders covering a number of authorities would be preferable.

I have discussed this question with John Wakeham and we share your view that composite Orders would be preferable. I suggest, however, that it might be as well not to take a final decision on this question at this stage and that it should be looked at again in the light of reactions to the proposals in the White Paper. In this way, we should be able to gain a better appreciation of the risk that composite Orders would be regarded as in some way oppressive. Perhaps we could be in touch about this point again later in the year.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord President of the Council, the Attorney General, the Chief Whip and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

John Biffen

JOHN BIFFEN

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
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