

NOPM AT
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CONFIDENTIAL



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

10 February 1984

Dear Secretary of State,

ABOLITION PAVING BILL

I write to ask for your agreement to the inclusion in the Bill of a minor additional provision related to the work of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

We have just learned informally from the Commission that, contrary to our earlier understanding, it now intends to submit to me in April or May, a report on electoral arrangements for West Yorkshire. The Local Government Act 1972 prevents me from simply putting such a report to one side and there must be a risk that if I did so West Yorkshire County Council might initiate litigation to force me to act on the report. What is needed is a simple provision in the Bill absolving the Secretary of State from the requirement to act on any report of the Local Government Boundary Commission following any review of the electoral arrangements for Greater London or a Metropolitan county. That requirement should be suspended so long as the paving legislation is in force.

I am copying this letter to colleagues on MISC 95, to the Prime Minister, the Chief Whip and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely
H Taylor
(approved by the Home Secretary and signed by H Taylor)

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The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin, MP

local Govt. #119

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 January, 1984

The Prime Minister has seen a copy of Lord Bellwin's letter of 25 January to the Secretary of State for the Environment about the Abolition Paving Bill. She has noted the proposals set out in it, and is content.

DAVID BARCLAY

Mike Bailey, Esq.,
Department of the Environment

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A handwritten signature, possibly 'SB', in the bottom right corner of the page.



Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street London SW1
Telephone 01-212 3434

Minister of State
for Local Government

25 January 1984

Sir Patrick,

Prime Minister (2)

Lord Bellwin proposes to suspend
the Sec's duty to consider
amendments to the Greater
London Development Plan, or to Met
County
Structure
Plans.

ABOLITION PAVING BILL

We are reaching the stage at which we need to take decisions on a number of outstanding issues on the paving Bill. I therefore propose to put to MISC 95 papers on by-elections to the abolition authorities; arrangements for the transitional councils; staffing matters; and obstruction. Meanwhile, there are two minor matters which need not take up the time of a meeting but on which I should be grateful for colleagues' agreement.

We have already agreed that the Bill should suspend the Secretary of State's duty to consider amendments to the Greater London Development Plan. It would be prudent to extend this provision to the metropolitan counties' structure plans, lest they too begin to submit amendments to their approved plans.

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In my letter of 12 December I envisaged that the duty on the Secretary of State to consider amendments to the structure plans, and on the Boundary Commission to review electoral arrangements, would be suspended until 1 April 1986. On reflection, this is unnecessarily rigid and I therefore propose that the Bill should not prescribe any date for these two purposes. The duties will be suspended so long as the paving legislation is in force. Should abolition fail, the duties would be re-applied as part of the order repealing the paving legislation.

I am copying this to colleagues on MISC 95, to the Prime Minister, the Chief Whip and to Sir Robert Armstrong. If I do not hear to the contrary by Friday 3 February, I shall assume that recipients are content with my proposals.

*Yours sincerely,
J. Jenkin*

LORD BELLWIN

CONFIDENTIAL



NBPM BT 24/1

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

23 January 1984

Dear Irwin,

CONTENT OF ABOLITION PAVING BILL

Thank you for your letter of 12 December, setting out certain proposals for inclusion in the Paving Bill on the implementation of the election provisions by a Commencement Order, on the appointment of members of the transitional councils and on other measures, described in the attachment to the letter.

I understand that colleagues to whom your letter was copied are now content with these proposals and you may therefore take it that you are free to proceed as you propose, subject to the points which have been agreed in the Home Secretary's letters to me of 22 December 1983 and 13 January 1984 and mine to him of 9 January.

I am copying this to colleagues in MISC 95, to the Prime Minister, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

can request

Yours
Patrick

PATRICK JENKIN