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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 March 1984

The Prime Minister read a paper compiled by the No. 10 Policy Unit over the weekend on the subject of local government spending.

She thought it would be worthwhile drawing some of the points in the paper to the attention of your Secretary of State. The paper started from the premise that the new expenditure limits and the abolition of the metropolitan counties, whilst essential to the task of curbing local authority spending, would not of themselves guarantee complete success.

It drew attention to the success of a small district in Oxfordshire, the Vale of the White Horse, which has just announced an 18 per cent decline in its rates without slashing spending. This reflected major savings on privatising refuse collection and cleaning, a judicious use of charges, e.g. for the modern sports and other facilities it manages, use of council-owned land for development with subsequent rental and profit, and an open policy towards planning and the creation of new jobs which has expanded the rate base.

From this example, the Policy Unit drew the following conclusions:

1. Whilst understanding the need to wait another year before legislating on contracting-out of services, they wondered whether your Secretary of State could reinforce his initiative using the prospect of legislation as a stick, and more advertising of the advantages of privatisation and competitive tender as a carrot, to encourage more rapid progress. The Policy Unit suggested building incentives into the grant formula.
2. The Policy Unit would be prepared to work with DOE and Treasury officials on ways of encouraging councils to seek more private money for amenities, educational and recreational facilities, and to encourage a more sensible commercial use of the premises. More income could be drawn from selling drinks, refreshments, food, books,

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sports equipment at sports halls and evening classes. An inducement could be given through the grant mechanism in such a way that total public spending is not increased.

3. The Policy Unit drew attention to your Secretary of State's enthusiasm to persuade councils of the need to exploit unused land. They asked whether much more publicity could be given to the campaign, as it is photogenic and a cause which many in the press might like to take up. They also wondered whether your Secretary of State should start using his powers to direct disposal in cases where obstinate local government refuses to make the best of its resources.
4. Local government often argues that its problems arise through the burdens imposed on it by central government. The Policy Unit wondered whether the Government could respond to this by announcing the many measures already taken to reduce the burdens on local authorities (see Annex to this letter) and setting up an ad hoc group to find further reductions in the legislative burden that could be incorporated in suitable repeal legislation.

If your Secretary of State or his officials would like to discuss any of these matters further, John Redwood at the Policy Unit would be delighted to develop these schemes. The Prime Minister seemed particularly interested in item 3. above.

You may like to know that in commenting on the Policy Unit paper, the Prime Minister said she wished to congratulate your Secretary of State on his efforts to bring local authority expenditure under control.

(Andrew Turnbull)

John Ballard, Esq.,
Department of the Environment

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PRIME MINISTER

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Government is committed to bringing local authority spending under control. We will, of course, be helped by the proposed expenditure limits, for which Patrick Jenkin is busily fighting. But these limits are only selective. It is very unlikely that increases in total local spending will grind to a halt. Nor will re-jigging the grant formula solve the problem: the Government will be forced into more and more controls on spending, and the trench warfare between central and local government will continue.

We need measures that will both assist in curbing total spending and help the new Bill by presenting a more positive side to our policies.

THERE IS HOPE

The Vale of the White Horse District Council in Oxfordshire has just announced a 2p, or 18%, decline in its rates without slashing spending. This conjuring feat - even more magical than Nigel's budget - is not beyond many more Councils, if they followed similar policies. The Vale has done it by:

1. Privatising services. They have saved 48% on the cost of refuse collection and cleaning between 1982/83 and 1984/85.
 2. Making reasonable charges for sports and other facilities. These are modern and well-used, and the charges are still well below the economic cost of providing the services.
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3. Use of council-owned land for development. They developed a major site for Tesco to build a super-store, which has generated jobs and provides a service that people want.

4. An open policy towards planning and the creation of new jobs. In Abingdon - one of the leading centres of the Vale - there has been a remarkable transformation in the wake of the collapse of MG. A whole new trading estate has sprung up, bringing with it a broader rate base and more diversified employment. The Council has helped by being liberal with planning permits and by mounting an imaginative campaign to attract new jobs without spending very much money.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

The Government could learn from the Vale's example, and could take a more positive approach to local government by:

1. Driving home the message that competition and contracting-out are essential if Councils are to achieve value for money. Wherever competitive tendering has been tried, savings have been made - even when the work stayed in house. We should not be interested in getting the work out of the hands of councils as a matter of ideological purity: we should be interested only in getting more service for less money. We understand the need to wait for another year before contemplating legislation on contracting-out, to complement the 1983 regulations for Direct Labour Organisation. But couldn't the prospect of legislation be used as a stick, and more advertising of the advantages of privatisation as a carrot, to encourage more rapid progress in this area? Incentives could also be built into the grant formula.

2. Encouraging Councils to seek more private money for amenities, educational and recreational facilities. Councils should seek more private capital. The DoE should be invited to identify examples of best practice, and to publicise them widely.

We should also encourage better commercial use of existing facilities. To achieve this, we could adjust the grant formula to favour those who do more to help themselves. We could offer a reduction in grant holdback for any Council that increases the amount of private money received, compared with the previous year. Much more income could be derived from rentals if entrepreneurs sold drinks, food, books, sports equipment etc at Sports Halls and evening classes. The recommended changes could and should be made in such a way that public expenditure is not increased.

3. Selling unused land. We now have 365 land-registers for all districts. But only 13,000 acres out of a total of 110,000 have been sold or brought into use since the registers were completed in mid-1982. Patrick Jenkin is already pressuring councils that fail to exploit unused land. This initiative deserves warm support, but couldn't more publicity be given to the scandal of councils holding such land unnecessarily? The cause is a good one, which would be taken up by the press and could be turned into a bandwagon campaign with skilful handling. It is extremely photogenic: there are examples both of councils that have acres of unused land under their control, and of others that have taken firm measures, to the profit of their communities. And if the publicity drive fails, shouldn't Patrick consider either using his powers to direct disposal, or else giving individuals the right to purchase unused land under suitable rules?

4. Reducing the burdens on local government. Local Authorities often complain that their spending is rising because central government continues to impose additional administrative burdens. The Government could respond positively to this by:

- (i) repeatedly announcing what has already been done to reduce burdens (see Annex);
- (ii) setting up an ad hoc group to find further reductions;
- (iii) ensuring that future legislation avoids imposing any unnecessary administrative tasks, and incorporates suitable repeals: (for example, when Keith Joseph brings forward proposals for strengthening the powers of school governors, it should also be made clear that the obligations of LEAs have diminished).

If you think this approach has some merit, you could send this paper to Patrick Jenkin and:

- (a) encourage him to continue his good work on contracting-out, and to consider building incentives into the RSG system;
- (b) invite his officials to work with the Policy Unit and the Treasury on a scheme to increase private funding;
- (c) ask the DoE to support their initiative on unused land, with another publicity drive, and with the willingness to use powers or to give individuals new rights;

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- (d) consider setting up an ad hoc group on administrative burdens imposed by central government.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Redwood', written in a cursive style.

JOHN REDWOOD

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ANNEX

CONTROLS LISTED IN THE 1979 WHITE PAPER WHICH HAVE SINCE BEEN RELAXED OR REPEALED

EDUCATION

Reference

Education Act 1944, s.13

Nature of Provision

Approval of proposals for establishment, closure, change of character, etc. of schools

Education Act 1944, ss.11 & 12
Education Act 1944, s.53
Education Act 1944, s.13(6)

Approval of school development plans.
Approval of recreation facilities.
The control of costs and standards for school premises.

Education Act 1944, s.9(1); Education (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1953, s.6(1); Education Act 1976, s.5(2)
Education Act 1944, s.84

Approval of financial assistance by LEAs to independent schools.

Education (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1948, s.5
Education Act 1944, s.61(2)
Education Act 1944, s.37

Approval of financial assistance by LEAs to universities.
Approval of arrangements for the provision of clothing for PE.
Prescription of scales of boarding fees.
Power to intervene over arrangements for children subject to school attendance orders.

Education Act 1944, s.82

Approval of arrangements for conducting educational research.

Education Act 1944, s.83

Approval of arrangements for educational conferences.

Further Education Regulations 1975, Reg. 11(2)

Approval of purchase of equipment for colleges of further education.

LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS

Reference

Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, s.8(2)

Nature of provision

Specification of maximum library reservation charges and fines.

HOME OFFICE FUNCTIONS

Reference

The Fire Services (Appointments and Promotion) Regulations 1978, SI 436

Nature of provision

Approval of appointment of Chief Fire Officers.

Breeding of Dogs Act 1973
Theatrical Employers Registration (Amendment) Rules 1968, SI 1342
Poisons Rules 1978, SI 1

Control of licence fees.

Control of licence fees.

Shops Act 1950, ss.8-11

Control of licence fees for sale of poisons.

Controls over orders fixing shop closing hours.

Public Health Act 1875, s.172

Confirmation of by-laws fixing hire fees for pleasure boats.

ENVIRONMENT

Reference

Housing Act 1957, s.43(4)

Housing Act 1957, s.91

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958, s.43(1)

Housing Act 1974, s.42

Housing Act 1974, s.52(7)

Housing Act 1969, s.28, as amended by Housing Act 1974, s.50 and 51

Housing Act 1969, s.37(1)

Housing Act 1974, s.46(2)

Housing Rents and Subsidies Act 1975 Schedule 1 para 9

Housing Act 1957, s.119

Clean Air Act 1956, s.4(1) & (2)

Clean Air Act 1956, s.6(3)

Clean Air Act 1956, s.11(1), (5) & (6), and Sch. 1 paras 4 & 5

Clean Air Act 1956, s.31(6)

Clean Air Act 1956, s.35(4)

Clean Air Act 1968, s.3(5)

Clean Air Act 1968, s.4(3)

Clean Air Act 1968, s.6(3)

Clean Air Act 1968, s.10(2) & (3)

Clean Air Act 1968, s.14(3)

Control of Pollution Act 1974, s.79(5), (6) & (7)

Control of Pollution Act 1974, s.63(1) and Schedule 1 (paras 1-3)

Control of Pollution Act 1974, Sch 1 para 5

Control of Pollution Act 1974, s.73(2)(a)

Nature of provision

Approval of extension of time for submission of slum clearance compulsory purchase order.

Power to require submission of housing programmes.

Control over conditions attached to individual local authority mortgages.

Power to require reports on progress with Housing Action Areas.

Power to prevent declaration of Priority Neighbourhood.

Controls over declaration of General Improvement Areas.

Project approval for environmental works in Housing Action Areas and General Improvement Areas.

Approval of the terms of co-operative agreements.

Consent to aid housing associations.

Regulations on smoke density measurements.

Call in of classes of applications for approval of arrestment plant.

Confirmation of smoke control order

Power to settle dispute over which district should deal with particular premises.

Power to repeal or amend local Act with regard to CAA 1956.

Call in of applications, and appeal against refusal of approval for arrestment plant.

Prescription of form for application for arrestment plant exemption.

Prescription of form for applications for chimney heights approval.

Consent to postponement of operation of smoke control order.

Power to repeal or amend local Act with regard to CAA 1968.

Approval of disclosure of information.

Confirmation of noise abatement order.

Consent to postponement of coming into operation of a noise abatement order.

Determination by Secretary of State of any question as to whether a place in the territorial sea lying seawards of a local authority's area is within that local authority's area for the purposes of s.73(2).

Reference	Nature of provision
Deposit of Poisonous Waste Act 1972, s.3(4)	Regulations exempting wastes from notification requirements.
Control of Pollution Act 1974, s.2(2)	Regulations modifying information to be included in waste disposal plan.
Control of Pollution Act 1974, s.2(3)(a)(vi)	Prescription of persons to be consulted on waste disposal plan.
Control of Pollution Act 1974, s.2(7)	Direction as to time by which authority must discharge duty to make plan.
Control of Pollution Act 1974, s.5(1)	Prescription of information in application for disposal licence.
Control of Pollution Act 1974, s.5(2)	Regulations allowing licence applications to be considered pending receipt of planning permission.
Control of Pollution Act 1974, s.5(4)(a)	Prescription of bodies to be consulted on proposed issue of disposal licence.
Control of Pollution Act 1974, s.11(3)(c)	Prescription of bodies to be consulted on proposed resolution covering a disposal site operated by the authority.
Control of Pollution Act 1974, s.6(1)	Prescription of conditions for disposal licences and resolutions.
Control of Pollution Act 1974, s.6(4)(a)	Prescription of details for register of licences.
Control of Pollution Act 1974, s.13(7)	Regulations on receptacles for controlled waste.
Control of Pollution Act 1974, s.23(2), (3) & (5)	Regulations on notices prohibiting parking in order to allow streets to be cleaned.
Control of Pollution Act 1974, s.28(1)(a)	Prescription of form of map of waste collection pipes.
Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978, s.3(2)	Prescription of notices in respect of removal of abandoned vehicles.
Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978, s.4(4)	Regulations requiring information on disposal of abandoned vehicles to be given to prescribed persons.
Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978, s.6(2)	Prescription of notices in respect of removal of other refuse.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.6(2)	Power to require a new survey.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.7	Specification of periods over which changes in relevant factors are to be estimated.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.10(1)	Power to require proposals for alteration of structure plans.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.10c(6), s.10c(8)	Power to require preparation or amendment of development plan schemes and to prescribe their contents and procedures.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.11(3)(b), s.11(5)	Specification of content of local plans by direction.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.12(2)	Prescription of availability for inspection of local plans other than at local office.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.12(3)	Prescription of content of public participation statement.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.12	The requirement that the adoption of a local plan must be delayed until the structure plan is approved.

Reference	Nature of provision
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.9(3), s.10(2)	The requirement that an Examination in public must always be held to consider proposals for alteration of a structure plan.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.20	The need for separate Orders to bring the 1971 Act system into force as each structure plan is approved— now provided for automatically.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, Sch 7, para 6	The need for separate revocation Orders as parts of the old development plans are superseded by local plans— now provided for automatically.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.10	The restrictions on replacement or amalgamation of present structure plans imposed by the wording of the present legislation.
Town and Country Planning (Structure and Local Plans) Regulations 1974, SI 1486	Powers of direction not associated with the rights of the individual to have access to the Secretary of State.
Town and Country Planning (Structure and Local Plans) Regulations 1974, SI 1486	Requirement for Secretary of State's approval of structure plan to cover reasoned justification for plan policies.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.50	Power to set up tribunal for appeals on design.
Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1969, Reg. 28(1)(a)	Call-in power.
Reg. 28(1)(c)	Direction to local planning authorities to consult other interests.
Reg. 28(3)	Power to direct local planning authority to make Area of Special Control Order or serve discontinuance notice.
Reg. 20(1)	Secretary of State's approval for duration of "express consent" exceeding five years.
Reg. 31(2)	Secretary of State's approval for index to register of applications not to be in the form of a map.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.277(2), as re-enacted in Town and Country Amenities Act 1974	Directions to review past exercise of functions under s.277 and determine whether further conservation areas should be designated.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.277(A)(4)	Direction that the provisions of s.277(A) shall not apply to individual buildings in a conservation area.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.277(B)	Directions to submit proposals for preservation and enhancement of conservation areas.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, Sch. 11, Part II, para. 12(b)	Confirmation of revocation of listed building consent where claim for compensation likely to arise.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.60(4)	Confirmation of tree preservation orders.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.61	Regulations securing notification of effect of provisional tree preservation orders.
Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) Act 1946, Sch 1, paras 3(1)(b) & 19(4)	Dispensation in connection with service of notice when owner unknown.
Local Government Act 1972, s.122	Consent for appropriation of land

Reference	Nature of provision
Housing Act 1957, Sch 3, para. 3(4)	Minister to be satisfied that notice has been served stating grounds for decision that building being acquired compulsorily is unfit.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.119	Consent to acquire land outside local authority area when not immediately needed.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.121	Confirmation of orders for appropriation of common land, open space, etc.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.122(2)(a)	Consent to appropriation of planning land by parish councils.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.123(2)(a)	Consent to disposal of planning land by non-principal councils.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.123(2)(b)	Consent to disposal of land acquired under s.112 of the Act, and for planning purposes.
Town and Country Planning Act 1971, s.123(4), (5) & (7)	Power to direct disposal to a particular person or otherwise intervene in disposals.
Town and Country Planning Act 1959, s.23(2)(a)	Control on the appropriation of open spaces.
Town and Country Planning Act 1959, s.23(2)(b)	Control on appropriation of land acquired compulsorily.
Town and Country Planning Act 1959, s.26(2)(a)	Control on disposal of open space;
Town and Country Planning Act 1959, s.26(2)(b)	Control on disposal of land acquired compulsorily
Housing Act 1969, s.35(1)	Consent to dispose of land which is open space or compulsorily acquired
Local Government Act 1972, s.123(4) & (5), s.127(3)	Consent to disposal of open space and land compulsorily purchased in last 10 years.
Public Health Act 1961, s.6, as amended by Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Sch 6	Power to make relaxations of building regulations.
Inner Urban Areas Act 1978, s.4(1)	Power to block declaration of improvement area.
Inner Urban Areas Act 1978, s.6(3)	Power to fix amount of grant per job created or preserved
London Government Act 1973, s.73(2)	Consent to advertisement by London authorities of commercial and industrial advantages of their areas.
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, s.3(2)	Prescription of information in application for site licence.
Caravan Sites Act 1968, s.9(1)	Requirement for information on proposed gypsy sites, and notification of ultimate provision.
Caravan Sites Act 1968, s.9(3)	Directions transferring district functions to county.
Caravan Sites Act 1968, s.9(4)	Power to hold local inquiry.
Countryside Act 1968, s.17	Power to direct when agricultural land shall be treated as excepted land for access purposes.
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, s.61(3)(b)	Power to direct that survey requirement should apply to former county borough area.

Reference	Nature of provision
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, s.62(4)	Power to make access orders etc. in light of result of access surveys.
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, s.79	Power to exclude land required for forestry from access order or agreement.
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, s.80(3)	Power to approve variations to access order or agreement in respect of danger areas.
Commons Act 1876, s.8	Power to sanction local authority contributions to maintenance.
Commons Act 1899, s.2	Approval of schemes of regulation.
Highways Act 1959, s.29(3) & s.112(5)	Powers to direct making of orders for creation, extinguishment and diversion of public paths.
Highways Act 1959, s.30(2), s.111(8)	Determination of disputes with highway authorities over works required in creating or diverting paths.
Highways Act 1959, s.126(2)	Appeals against highway authority's refusal to allow stiles, etc. on public paths.
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, s.37	Power to expedite preparation of definitive maps of rights of way.
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, s.53(1)(b)	Approval of agreements on operation of ferries on long distance routes.
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, s.53(1), proviso	Directions on consultations with water authorities.
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, s.53(3)	Directions on district council functions.
Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, s.32(2)	Use of sale proceeds for purposes other than allotments.
Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, s.47(1)	Appeal against prohibition of improvements.
Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, s.49(2)	Consent to grants.
Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, s.54(1)	Approval of transfer of surplus allotment revenue to other purposes.
Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, s.54(2)	Requirement to prepare allotment account within one month of end of financial year.
Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, s.28	Confirmation of rules.
Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, s.59	Requirement to make annual reports.
Land Settlement (Facilities) Act 1919, s.22(1)(b)	Consent to appropriation of allotment land.
Allotments Act 1922, s.20	Default powers in relation to outer London Boroughs.
Allotments Act 1925, s.13	Specification of contents of annual reports.
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act 1951, ss. 6, 7 & 15(5)	Appeal against refusal of licence; prescription of analyst's fees.
Cremation Act 1952, s.1	Approval of site and plans of crematoria.
Highways Act 1959, s.288	Power to modify or repeal local Acts.
General Rate Act 1967, s.55	Lack of discretion for authorities over apportionment of rates between owners and occupiers.

Reference	Nature of provision
Public Health Act 1936 proviso to s.291(3)	Controls over interest rates for various purposes.
Coast Protection Act 1949 s.10(2)	
Housing Act 1957, s.10(6)	
Highways Act 1959, ss.181, 212, 264	
Housing Act 1969, s.6(4)	
Mines and Quarries (Tips) Act 1969, s.23(5)	
Control of Pollution Act 1974, s.90(2)(b)	
Housing Act 1974, s.76(6)	
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.24(6), s.33(3)	
Highways Act 1959, s.211	
Highways Act 1959, s.246	Fixing of annuity rates for private street works charging orders. Determination of questions as to what part of certain payments to highway authorities represents capital.

TRANSPORT

Reference	Nature of provision
Highway Act 1959, s.26(3)	Approval of new road ferries.
Transport Act 1968, s.120	Determination of height of parapets on bridges over railway lines.
Highway Act 1959, s.108(10)	Appeal by London Borough Council against GLC's refusal of consent to stopping up of a metropolitan road.
Locomotives Act 1898, s.7; Ministry of Transport Act 1919, s.11; Road Traffic Regulations Act 1967, s.17	Appeals against bridge restrictions.
Highways Act 1959, ss.95 and 96 Highways Act 1959, s.73(1)	Regulations on cattle grids. Directions concerning prescription of building lines.
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953, s.5 Road Traffic Act 1960, s.149	Appeals concerning erection of bus shelters. Modification of restrictions on use of roads by public service vehicles.
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967, s.26(5) Public Health Act 1961, Sch.3	Power to revoke or vary street playground orders. Appeals concerning provision of safety barriers, litter bins and guard rails.
Local Government Act 1966, s.29	Appeals concerning provision of street lighting.
Highways Act 1959, s.233(2)	Control of period during which tolls may be levied.
Highways Act 1959, s.233(5)	Confirmation of agreements to transfer toll highways.
Highways Act 1959, s.280	Regulations as to forms and notices for dedicating a highway as reparable at public expense, and apportionment of costs for private street works.
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967, s.21(4) & (5)	Power to revoke or vary pedestrian crossing schemes.

Reference	Nature of provision
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967, s.9(3) & (5)	6 month restriction on initial duration of experimental orders. (Amended to enable authorities to make orders for up to 18 months, and to modify or suspend them without making a variation order.)
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967, s.1(9)	Power to amend local act traffic regulation provisions.
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967, ss.1(2), 84B(1)(g) & 84D(3)	Power to make traffic regulation orders on request of a university.
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967, ss.1 & 9	Power to make traffic regulation orders applying to a trunk road. (Local authorities enabled to include trunk roads in orders relating to traffic management schemes, subject to the Minister's consent to the trunk road element.)
Countryside Act 1968, s.32(3) & (4)	Power to make traffic regulation orders for special areas in the countryside.
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967, s.21(1)	Approval of the establishment of pedestrian crossing schemes.
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967, s.84B(1)(a)	Consent to restriction of access for more than 8 hours in 24. (Consent required only where there are unwithdrawn objections from property holders.)
Highways Act 1971, s.2(2) and (4)	Confirmation of orders stopping up private access. (Confirmation required only when property owners are affected.)
Countryside Act 1968, s.32(9)	Power to require removal of traffic signs from Crown roads.

PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES

Reference	Nature of provision
Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, s.3(1)	Consent to a social services committee dealing with non-social services business.
Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, s.6(3)	Power to prescribe qualifications for directors of social services.
Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, s.6(4)	Requirement to consult Secretary of State over appointment of director of social services; Secretary of State's power to prohibit appointment.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Reference	Nature of provision
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, s.77(4)	Power of Minister to acquire land in a national park for public access for open-air recreation.
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, s.69	Power of Minister to suspend public access to land which is the subject of an access agreement or Order if there is exceptional risk of fire.

Reference**Nature of provision**

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act
1949, s.2(2)

Requirement to keep records and
submit reports on rodent control.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act
1949, s.12(1)

Requirement to exercise rodent control
functions in accordance with
directions by Minister.

Food and Drugs Act 1955, s.99(2)

Requirement to send Minister copies
of quarterly reports on food sampling
submitted by public analysts.

Food and Drugs Act 1955, s.109(3)

Requirement to give Minister notice of
intention to institute proceedings for
certain offences.

Countryside Act 1968, s.29(4)

Minister to be consulted before a
highway authority refuses to make an
Order for the temporary diversion of a
footpath for good agricultural reasons.

Agriculture Act 1970, s.67(7)

Requirement to submit reports on
exercise of enforcement functions on
fertilisers and feedingstuffs.

Agriculture Act 1970, s.80(2)

Requirement to give Minister notice of
intention to institute proceedings for
certain offences.

Slaughterhouses Act 1974, s.2(6)

Power to prescribe forms of
slaughterhouse licences and
applications for licences and to
require authorities to keep records of
licences and supply information.

Slaughterhouses Act 1974, s.12(1) &
16(1)

Power to require authorities to make
by-laws about (s.12) private
slaughterhouses and knackers yards
and (s.16) public slaughterhouses.

TRADE**Reference****Nature of provision**

Weights and Measures Act 1963,
s.39(3)
Trade Descriptions Act 1968,
s.26(3)
Hallmarking Act 1973, s.9
Consumer Credit Act 1974, s.161(4)
Estate Agents Act 1979, s.26(5)
Weights and Measures Act 1979,
s.4(3)
Weights and Measures Act 1963,
s.41(2)
Weights and Measures Act 1963,
s.42

Powers to set up local inquiries
and publish inspector's report.

Appointments of qualified staff to
be notified in one month.
Department of Trade to hold
qualifying examination for
inspectors and to determine (with
the approval of the Treasury)
candidates' fees.

Weights and Measures Act 1963,
s.11(3)

Prescription of fees charged by
local authorities for testing
equipment.

Reference	Nature of provision
Weights and Measures Act 1963, s.47a	Prescription of fees for local authorities' services as Community obligations.
Weights and Measures Act 1963, s.43(1)	Prescription of adjustment fees.
Weights and Measures Act 1963, s.5(1)	Power to say what equipment is required.
Weights and Measures Act 1963, s.5(1A)	Prior approval to be obtained for any equipment hired in or out by a local authority.



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10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister ④

Some good ideas here
but if it is put to Patrick
Jenkin it will need to be
put carefully to give
credit for what has been / is
being done and to avoid
the impression of "teaching
grandmother ..."

AT

21/3

(I think we should
write a covering letter
congratulating Patrick on his
efforts. We send this paper.
I am particularly interested in
the card boardings point - page 3
sub.