



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

30 October 1984

Dear Victor,

You may have seen that I have asked Patrick Jenkin at the Department of the Environment to have another look, starting from first principles, at the whole vexed subject of local government finance and functions. Patrick has established an internal study as the first stage towards producing options for us to follow through in wider public discussion in due course - perhaps in a years time. Ken Baker has the overall supervision of this; William Waldegrave will run the study in its first stages, with a small team in the Department of the Environment.

One of the problems in this area is to get a really fresh look at the whole subject. There are plenty of experts - some of them very good - but they tend to have spent their lives in the local government world. We need sharp advice from outside. Would you be willing to help? I suggested the idea to William who was of course enthusiastic, as was Terry Heiser, the Deputy Secretary responsible. If you were interested I would ask William to come round and discuss with you how you might participate. I would not see this as something to be publicly announced, though I expect it will become known that you were involved.

Kind regards,

Yours ever

Theresa

Lord Rothschild, G.B.E., G.M., F.R.S.

ate LPO  
cc William  
Waldegrave

TAS.