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Prime Minister (2)

To note. The cost of extending
planning control to the other
seven National Parks is likely
to be small - less
than £ 1/2 m.

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

William Waldegrave MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 3EB

29 January 1985

Sub
29/1

Stan William

LANDSCAPE SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT ORDERS (LASDO)
AND 'A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE UPLANDS'

will request
if required

You sent me copies of your letters of 14 and 21 January to Michael Jopling about the proposed extension of LASDOs and the Government's response to the Countryside Commission's Uplands Report. Since then we have discussed these questions at the Prime Minister's meeting on 23 January.

We agreed at that meeting that LASDO should be extended to all national parks, subject to a more detailed assessment of the costs involved. I understand from discussions between our officials that you believe formal planning approval under LASDO would not cost the authorities more to operate than the present prior notification of grant eligible work. However, Section 44 grants, although discretionary, could be expected to cost an extra £25,000 a year. I understand also that additional agricultural grants could lead to additional costs of £100,000 - £250,000 a year falling on the agriculture programme.

I have no objection to your undertaking to issue the consultative document proposing to extend LASDO providing these costs are met from within existing expenditure programmes. In particular, any extra administrative or Section 44 grant costs falling on local authorities would be a 'new burden on local government' and would need to be considered under the 'new burden' arrangements. This means that unless other ways are found of alleviating the burden on local authorities, I will have to ask you to be ready to make a PES transfer if and when costs do arise into the provision for local authority current. I should be grateful if you

/could

could confirm you agree to this approach.

I should also be grateful if Michael Jopling and Nicholas Edwards confirm that they are prepared to meet any additional costs which may arise from within their existing PES provisions.

Subject to these points, I have no objection to you announcing the consultation exercise.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord President, Michael Jopling, George Younger, Nicholas Edwards, John Selwyn-Gummer and John Belstead.

*Yours with kin
Peter Rees*

PETER REES

29 JAN 1965

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