



From the Minister

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH

The Rt Hon Peter Walker MBE MP
Department of Energy
Thames House South
Millbank
LONDON
SW1P 4QJ

10 May 1985

Dear Secretary of State

Your letter of 1 April to the Prime Minister about energy savings will, I am sure, find wide acceptance and I, for one, would be anxious to make resource savings of the order you mention. There are however two points which I should like to make.

Firstly, there is clearly a great deal of expertise available in your Department on this subject which could be of considerable help to departments like mine which do not at present have any professional input on this subject. We should be glad to have access, either bilaterally or through any appropriate central body that may be set, to the body of expertise you have built up or what may be available in other Departments and I have asked my people to get in touch with you about this.

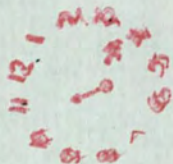
Secondly, a major component of energy use is heating, which remains under the control and responsibility of PSA. The possibilities of achieving the significant saving from increased efficiency we would all like to see will therefore depend very much on the extent of action they can take. Furthermore, I suspect that in order to achieve significantly better efficiency in many of the older buildings, for instance the Whitehall complex, it would be very much a case of 'spending to save'. The present system in Whitehall Place, as you may remember, is so defective that during the recent hard winter some offices had to be provided with supplementary heaters to enable people to work at all while others were only habitable with windows wide open! I am having the possibility of improving this system investigated but this may require substantial expenditure and the cost effectiveness will need to be examined.

/I am sending ...

Gregy A2

Conservative

13 MAY 1968



I am sending copies of this letter to members of the Cabinet, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Robin Ibbs.

Yours Sincerely
C. Heald

for

MICHAEL JOPLING
(Approved by the Minister
and signed in his absence)