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Peter

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY : REPORT ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFICE

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to Kenneth Baker of 29 January with a draft response to the Select Committee report on the Energy Efficiency Office.

2 I am generally content with the proposed draft response. However I am concerned that paragraph 48 on Building Regulations and energy efficiency standards appears to go further than the position set out in paragraph 39 of the recent White Paper "Lifting the Burden". It appears to accept, for example, that higher minimum standards would be economically justified; that there is a role for building regulations in setting "good" (rather than "basic") energy efficiency standards; and that there is an agreed aim to move "as rapidly as possible" to "higher energy efficiency standards incorporated in regulations", albeit ones designed to allow maximum freedom.

3 I should want to know that David Young was content with this paragraph or an alternative to it before it went to the Select Committee.

4 I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, Nigel Lawson, George Younger, Norman Fowler, David Young, Nicholas Ridley, Malcolm Rifkind, Nicholas Edwards, Tom King, Kenneth Baker, Richard Luce, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours

Paul

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PAUL CHANNON

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