

PROPOSED NEW POLLUTION INSPECTORATE

We support the proposal to site the unified Air, Land, Water and Radio Chemical Inspectorate at DoE for the following reasons:

- a. The proposal has the confidence of a number of environmental groups that see this as a sign of our genuine commitment to safeguarding the environment.
- b. We will steal a march on opposition parties who will probably announce at Party Conferences that they will initiate this proposal if we do not.
- c. Not only do all relevant Government Departments, including Treasury, support the proposal, but the CBI and the Chemical Industries Association want it.
- d. We believe there are savings to be made and that Martin Holdgate in DoE is right when he promises us efficiency savings. Although it is uncertain what staff savings will be achieved, we are satisfied that there is clear commitment in the Department to cost savings and the avoidance of padding.
- e. We believe that the Water Inspectorate will be a sensible paving stone for water privatisation.

- f. We believe that the Radio Chemical Inspectorate which safeguards general public health can work professionally under the DoE while maintaining a sensible and improved working dialogue with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, which remains under HSE. The NII which deals with the safety and design for workers is clearly distinct from the RCI.

Conclusion

We recommend that you give your approval to the new unified inspectorate, but we suggest you underline Treasury's call for efficiency savings.

Hartley Booth.

HARTLEY BOOTH

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DRAFT LETTER FROM MR FLESHER TO PS/SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Prime Minister has considered Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 14 July, and the minutes from your Secretary of State, the Secretary of State for Energy, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Chief Secretary and Sir Robin Ibbs.

She has decided that the Industrial Air Pollution Inspectorate should be transferred from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to the Department of the Environment (DOE) to form part of a combined Pollution Inspectorate within DOE. She considers it essential that this change should not lead to any increase in the regulatory burden on industry and has asked that DOE and the HSE devote particular care to achieving co-ordination between inspectors dealing with the same industrial process, for example by implementation of the recommendations at paragraph 7.9 of the Efficiency Scrutiny.

The Prime Minister has also decided that the Radiochemical Inspectorate should form part of the

new Pollution Inspectorate. She has noted, however, that the Efficiency Scrutiny found some scope for improvement in co-ordination between inspectorates concerned with nuclear matters. She has asked that officials in DOE and HSE, in consultation with MAFF, should put forward quickly, for Ministerial approval and subsequent implementation, a series of measures to improve co-ordination by administrative means as envisaged in paragraphs 6.27 and 6.28 of the Efficiency Scrutiny.

The Prime Minister has asked that DOE should appoint a new action manager (following the retirement of Sir Peter Harrop) and in consultation with the Department of Employment prepare an action plan. This should be available within three months. She has also asked that your Department in consultation with the Department of Employment should submit to her ~~as soon as possible~~ a draft ^{Per Notice} ~~Parliamentary Question~~ announcing the change, and proposals as to the publication of the Efficiency Scrutiny.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Lord President of the

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Council, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Employment, Energy, Trade and Industry, Scotland and Wales, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Robin Ibbs.

Approved



Ref. A086/2173

MR FLESHER

Proposed New Pollution Inspectorate

--- Further to Sir Robert Armstrong minute of 14 July to the
Prime Minister, I now submit a draft minute from you which
takes account of recent minutes giving the views of the Secretaries
of State for the Environment and Energy, the Minister of
Agriculture, the Chief Secretary and Sir Robin Ibbs.

MS

M C STARK

25 July 1986

PRIME MINISTER

UNIFIED POLLUTION INSPECTORATE

As you know Sir Robert Armstrong has submitted to you the report assessing the proposal for the New Pollution Inspectorate to be housed in DOE which you commissioned last October because you were doubtful whether the existing arrangements to be changed. The Policy Unit are also in favour (see Hartley's note - Flag B). Ministers have now commented and their comments are at Flag C (Department of Environment), Flag D (Department of Employment), Flag E (Treasury), F (Energy), G (Sir Robin Ibbs). All have backed the proposal.

You will recall that Lord Marshall was keen for the Radiochemical Inspectorate which deals with nuclear matters to be moved from DOE to HSE. However, Employment and Energy are both against this. It will be a tough fight to counter the unanimous view of the Ministers who have commented.

Do you wish to accept Sir Robert Armstrong's proposals?

If so, a draft PS letter for your approval is at Flag H.

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over not

Tim Flesher
25 July 1986

Yes not.

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