



CABG

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

NBPM

SCRUTINY OF INSPECTION FUNCTIONS

1. I have seen a copy of Sir Robert Armstrong's minute to you of 14 July in which he recommends the creation of a combined inspectorate, dealing with air pollution, hazardous waste, water pollution and radiochemical matters, within the Department of the Environment.
2. As Sir Robert says, we in Scotland would from our own experience see substantial advantages in what is proposed. HM Industrial Pollution Inspectorate, which deals with a wide range of subjects including air pollution and the regulation of radioactive discharges, is an integral part of the Scottish Development Department, whose remit covers the environment in Scotland. We have always found this close relationship to be a great advantage; it shortens lines of communication, makes expert advice readily and economically available to administrators, and creates a professional body whose all-round expertise is widely known and respected. The Chernobyl incident and the action which followed it highlighted the value of having available direct access to professional advice on the environmental implications of incidents of this kind, which the Pollution Inspectorate were uniquely placed to provide.
3. I would therefore strongly endorse Sir Robert's recommendation that a unified inspectorate should be created and that it should be located within the Department of the Environment.

1. I am copying this minute to Willie Whitelaw, Nigel Lawson, David Young, Peter Walker, Nick Ridley, Paul Channon, Nick Edwards and Michael Jopling and to Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Robin Ibbs.

Andy Rinning

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M R

Approved by the Secretary of
State and signed in his
absence

28 July 1986

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ENV. AFFAIRS
ACID RAIN

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