

CCB



Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG  
GWYDYR HOUSE  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER  
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switsfwrdd)  
01-233 6106 (Llinell Union)

WELSH OFFICE  
GWYDYR HOUSE  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER  
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switchboard)  
01-233 6106 (Direct Line)

Oddi wrth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru

The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP

From The Secretary of State for Wales

NBN

15 September 1986

De Peter

ENERGY SAVING IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES

Thank you for your letter of 31 July. *at nap.*

I entirely accept that we should aim to save energy in our own estate. My department is about to launch an energy saving campaign, and a recently retired member of staff has been engaged to help to get the campaign off the ground. When he has completed the "setting up" tasks of collecting energy usage data, passing it down the line, establishing targets, identifying where the greatest savings might be achieved etc he will pass the on-going work he will have stimulated to a permanent member of staff who will be designated energy manager. From the outset we will encourage local managers and staff generally to save energy by good housekeeping practices.

While I expect this campaign and continuing work to produce worthwhile savings, I do not expect it to show dramatic results overnight for the following reasons:-

- a. my department's annual energy bill is currently of the order of only £2m;
- b. nearly half of my staff are housed in a new Crown building in Cathays Park, Cardiff where there should be little scope for savings. This building was designed with energy conservation very much in mind, the sophisticated environmental controls are in the hands of PSA's resident engineers, and PSA have taken a particular interest in energy consumption in the building which they regard as one of their special energy conservation buildings;

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



c. in many of the small outstations, progress with energy saving will be dependent to at least some extent upon landlords, in rented property, and other Government departments particularly major occupiers; and

d. as Michael Jopling points out in his letter of 5 September, spend to save schemes are likely to be frustrated unless the overall funding position is improved.

Nevertheless, as I have said, your drive for energy saving in the civil estate has my full support, and we will do what we can as quickly as we can.

Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, all members of Cabinet in charge of Departments and Sir Robert Armstrong.

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