



SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR  
NORTHERN IRELAND

cgba

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Rt Hon Peter Walker MP  
Secretary of State for Energy  
Thames House South  
Millbank  
LONDON  
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*NRBM*

22 September 1986

*Dear Secretary of State,*

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Thank you for your letter of 31 July 1986 about energy efficiency in the public sector.

Energy efficiency is particularly important in Northern Ireland because of our higher than average energy costs. It is therefore essential for the public sector to give a strong and positive lead on good energy practice. You may recall that when members of the Select Committee on Energy visited Northern Ireland last year they commended the fact that we had taken the initiative and had already established an Inter-Departmental Committee on Energy Efficiency, which has a key role in co-ordinating and promoting good energy practice in Government Departments and public bodies.

Since its inception in 1984, the Committee has established the structures necessary to improve the public sectors energy performance. Central to those structures is the appointment of energy managers throughout the public sector. At the same time the Committee has fully recognised the value of monitoring and targetting systems and Departments and public bodies are developing and refining systems to meet their individual needs.

The Committee has not been content to pursue generalised savings. It set as an initial target the reduction of energy usage in the public sector by 10% by 31 March 1986 compared to a base year of 1983/84, equivalent to an

annual saving of £4.4 million. While it is not yet possible to say whether the target has been fully realised, initial returns from major energy users in the public sector are very encouraging. For example the Health Service Estate expect an improvement in energy performance of just over 9% compared to 1983/84 while the Prison Service has put in train a programme expected to realise a saving of at least 5% in 1986/87 compared to the previous year.

You mentioned PRS in your letter: we have carefully considered the possibility of adopting PRS in the public sector in Northern Ireland but it was concluded that it would not be appropriate because of the different scale of the Government estate here. This conclusion was later endorsed by a Rayner study.

You can of course be assured of my continuing interest in the action which the public sector in Northern Ireland is taking to improve its energy performance and the savings which can be achieved.

I have arranged for officials in the Department of Economic Development to prepare a memorandum giving details of progress on energy efficiency in Northern Ireland Departments and public bodies and to send this to their opposite numbers in the Energy Efficiency Office.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours Sincerely  
N. Ward  
(Private Secretary)

for TK  
(approved by the Secretary  
of State and signed in his  
absence in Northern Ireland)

ENERGY Conservation P12

