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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH

From the Minister

The Rt Hon Lord Cockfield
Secretary of State for Trade
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

NBPM

MS 26/7

26 July 1982

Thank you for letting me see a copy of the draft White Paper on BSI Standards which you intend to publish on 29 July. This deals with manufacturing standards, and I have no comment on it.

Since I received a copy of your letter of 25 June to ^{attached} Michael Heseltine, my Department has reviewed the practices of regulatory bodies connected with food and agriculture. It does not appear that I have within my responsibilities any regulatory bodies making informal use of standards. The Marketing Boards do however set mandatory quality standards.

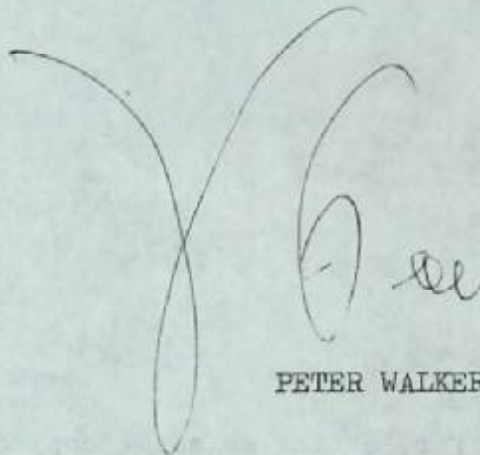
My Department contributes to the development of BSI Standards through participation in a large number of its committees. It also makes use of these standards in negotiating international standards both in the Community and elsewhere. In the administration of the Agriculture and Horticulture Grant Scheme 1980 BSI standards are one of the yardsticks for eligibility, and ADAS advice includes their use.

You will be aware of the new marketing body "Food from Britain" plans for which I announced on 7 June. This will in the course of next year replace the Central Council for Agricultural and Horticultural Co-operation which monitors the quality standards of co-operatives. The new body will also be concerned with the establishment and maintenance of quality standards. I do not think that

/BSI standards will be ...

BSI standards will be widely applicable to the role of the new body but I will suggest that it takes them into account wherever possible, and I will certainly support your initiative whenever the opportunity arises.

✓ I am copying this to Members of the Cabinet and to Sir Robert Armstrong.



PETER WALKER

26 JUL 1982

