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Prime Minister (2)

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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

28 July 1982

The Rt Hon Lord Cockfield
Secretary of State for Trade

STANDARDS QUALITY AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Thank you for sending me a copy of your minute of 22 July to the Prime Minister.

I very much welcome the positive line taken in your proposed White Paper. My only comments relate to your financial proposals. I note that you see no possibility of meeting the additional expenditure from within your existing provision. As one of the primary objectives of the present initiative is industrial efficiency, I would be grateful if you would investigate sharing the costs with Patrick Jenkin and other interested colleagues. Leon Brittan could not agree to a commitment to find new money and I must accordingly reserve his position.

We see no objection to the reference in square brackets standing as drafted, since it merely commits the Government to giving consideration of support from public funds (though I should prefer to omit "well" in the first sentence in square brackets).

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of the Cabinet and Sir Robert Armstrong.

GEOFFREY HOWE

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