

CONFIDENTIAL

R M



10 DOWNING STREET

Cabinet:- HO WO CDL  
 LC DI DT  
 HMT LPO CO  
 FCO DTrans  
 NIO DHSS  
 MOD Chief Sec  
 MAFF LPS  
 DOE DEnergy  
 SO DE

5 August, 1982

From the Private Secretary

PRIVATISATION

The Prime Minister was grateful for your Secretary of State's minute of 3 August. She agrees with him that in their responses to her personal minute to the Chancellor of 28 July (M6/82), Ministers should interpret "privatisation" in a broad sense, and should feel free to make proposals to the Chancellor that go wider than the public trading sector. In particular, your Secretary of State should feel free to make proposals to enable universities to become less dependent upon the taxpayer.

The Prime Minister has, however, commented that E(DL) may not be a suitable place in which to discuss each and every one of these proposals, and she would be grateful if the Chancellor of the Exchequer could consider how these proposals should be handled when Ministers report to him in mid-September.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of the Cabinet and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

W.F.S. RICKETT

Mrs Imogen Wilde  
 Department of Education and Science

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Handwritten mark resembling a stylized 'S' or '5'.

Prime Minister

1. GJSV

PRIME MINISTER

I suggest that I write to Private Secretaries

saying that ministers are of course free to interpret "privatisation" in a broad sense, and to make proposals to the Chancellor accordingly, but that the Chancellor will probably wish to consider whether EDL is the best place to discuss all these proposals when they have been

I hope that under the umbrella of "privatisation" - the subject of your minute to the Chancellor of the Exchequer of which you sent me a copy - might be included conceptually the aim to enable universities to become less dependent upon the taxpayer. I do not suggest that many of them need necessarily be totally privatised but some move in that direction seems desirable for a whole range of reasons which I am not seeking to set out in this minute.

finalised  
checked in  
the Autumn.  
Agree?

WM  
4/8

2 My purpose is only to ensure that we look wider than the public trading sector.

3 I am copying this to the Chancellor and to other members of E(DL).

Yes MS

ly.

3 August 1982