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Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

CONFIDENTIAL

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AT 20/12

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20 December 1983

The Rt Hon Tom King MP
Secretary of State for Employment
Department of Employment
Caxton House
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R. Tom.

METHOD OF DESIGNATING ASSISTED AREAS

The legislation which concerns the designation of assisted areas (Section 1 of the Industrial Development Act 1982) has a specific provision to permit description by reference to employment office areas of the Manpower Services Commission. Designation in this way is unlikely to be appropriate in order to implement our decisions following our review of the assisted area map, and I shall therefore need a power to designate by reference to local authority wards, or to any unit consisting of such wards, including future Travel-to-Work-Areas as defined by your Department or to any other unit prescribed by or under a statute. The only alternative would be to specify the areas in very great detail in the order, or by incorporating very detailed maps. Both these possibilities are cumbersome and liable to error, and by adding to the time needed to prepare the orders would delay the introduction of the new map and regional development grant scheme.

2 I propose, therefore, to include such a change in the Bill which I intend to introduce in January to change the Regional Development Grants Scheme (which is contained in the same Act). The change could be made to apply automatically to the designation of derelict land clearance areas, and I would propose to do this. My proposed new provision should not affect the timing of the introduction of the Bill.

3 I am copying this letter to the other Members of E(A) and to the Lord President, the Chief Whip, Sir Robert Armstrong and First Parliamentary Counsel.

NORMAN TEBBIT