



C. NO
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

11 January 1984

2 letters

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Doubt
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RESTRUCTURING OF THE PSA

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 3 November to Nigel Lawson on this subject. I commented on these proposals in July and have since reviewed the position in the light of the further correspondence and discussions that have taken place.

Your Department will be aware that the Home Office has taken a close interest in the proposed reorganisation and that it has played a fairly prominent part in the discussions. This reflects our large, diverse and widely scattered estate and the absence of a regional structure of our own. For these reasons, and because the timely provision and upkeep of suitable accommodation is so essential to our future efficiency and effectiveness, it was obviously important to assess the operational effect of the changes and ensure that our property interests were properly protected.

Initially, at the time of the consultations in the early part of last year, we were very apprehensive that restructuring combined with client dedication would produce larger catchment areas, with a resulting loss of accessibility and a consequential risk to standards and to the level of service provided at present. More recently, however, the PSA have modified and improved their proposals, provided further information and given several important assurances and undertakings. In particular, we welcome the introduction of property managers and the latest form of organisational dedication which includes operational flexibility at the level of the district - albeit on the strict understanding that the system of crossworking would not involve civil clients having to compete with or receive less priority than the Ministry of Defence and on the basis that the new arrangements would be monitored both by PSA management and by the controlling tiers reporting to the Civil Property Directorate. We also derive some comfort from the statement that most local links would be preserved, with no reduction in the professional and technical resources available, and from the assurance that reorganisation would enhance the service which the PSA can provide to their civil clients generally.

Accordingly, while the Home Office sees the disadvantages of a radical change of this kind so soon after the introduction and further development of PRS, we are broadly content with what you have in mind. But I agree with Michael Jopling that the implementation programme should be realistic and not too ambitious and that every effort should be made to reduce the disruption to a minimum.

I am copying this to Nigel Lawson and to the other recipients of your letter of 3 November.

2 letters

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin, MP

CIVIC SERVICE
P&A Reconstructing
July '82

