



*for*  
*c.c. June Brewer*

*cc MASTER SET*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Chief Executive, Property Services Agency

The Prime Minister discussed with you this afternoon your minute of 22 March (A984/915).

On the question of Ministerial responsibility, the Prime Minister said that she could think of one or two of her colleagues who would make an excellent job of Ministerial responsibility of PSA, but she was not at present minded to make it into a separate department because she shared your view that there was unlikely to be enough work at political level to occupy a full-time Minister of the quality required. In any event, she did not think that a Ministerial post in charge of the PSA should carry Cabinet rank, and that would reduce its attraction to potential holders of the post.

The Prime Minister would like to find a suitable candidate for the post of Chief Executive of the PSA as soon as possible from within the Civil Service. She concluded, after discussing the names with you, that the front-runners were Mr. Geoffrey Chipperfield, Mr. Kenneth MacDonald and Mr. Gordon Manzie. She suggested that you should discuss these names with the Secretary of State for the Environment, who might interview any of the three whom he did not already know, and see whether this led to an agreed recommendation.

E. E. R. BUTLER

2 April 1984