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The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON SW1

29 June 1984

Dear Patrick,

URBAN PROGRAMME REVIEW

You will remember that you wrote to me on 21 May confirming your intention to consult colleagues about your current review of the urban programme in England.

Although my Department has yet to see a copy I understand that the review report is now complete and that you are considering how it should be handled. At this stage I would like simply to record my own serious concern about the timing of decisions. As you may know, a combination of pressure on other programmes and slippage of 1983-84 planned expenditure into the current financial year have forced the suspension of new urban programme project approvals in Scotland. This has resulted in strong representations from both the local authorities and voluntary groups immediately affected and from members from both sides of the House. As soon as the provisional out-turn for 1983-84 and therefore the scope for further new approvals is established next month I will be under very considerable pressure to make an announcement about the future of the urban programme in Scotland. I would not wish to do this however in isolation from consideration of any implications for Scotland of your own current review.

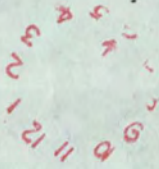
I can sustain our present position probably until the summer recess but beyond that we could be in a very difficult position. I would be grateful therefore if you would both keep in mind the additional time pressures on Scotland in considering how to handle the report and keep me in touch with your proposals.

I am copying this letter as before to the Prime Minister, Peter Rees, Nicholas Edwards and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,  
George.

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Inner cities



29 JUN 1984