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The Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham
Secretary of State for Employment
Department of Employment
Caxton House
Tothill Street
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NBM

5 December 1985

Dear David

DEREGULATION

KLAP PT17

You copied to me your letter of 29 November to Leon Brittan with the documents setting out the proposed working level arrangements. I look forward to the discussions with Kenneth Clarke: we have long been very careful here to minimise the effect of regulation on business.

I shall be happy to go along with these arrangements, and to offer the EDU the opportunity to look at all regulations which have a significant impact on business. I do however think it is important that the EDU should be selective from the start, and not try to cover everything. (I do not think there ever was a question of the EDU having a role in scrutinising regulations which do not affect business at all, as has earlier been suggested.)

How this work is organised within the Department must be a matter for me. I shall certainly see that there is a specific official responsible for all the contacts with the EDU, and responsible to me and my colleagues in the Department for the arrangements for compliance cost assessments. But the major policies I am carrying through for deregulation in various fields go very wide in my Department, and I do not propose in addition to have something called a "Deregulation Unit".

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and Leon Brittan and to the others to whom you have sent copies of your letter.

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

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