

cc BG

01 211 6402

The Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham
Secretary of State for Employment
Caxton House
Tothill Street
SW1H 9NF

NBM

5 December 1985

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DEREGULATION

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 28 November to Leon Brittan.

I share your concern to reduce burdens on business and my Department will do all it can to support your proposed concordat.

We have in fact few regulations and they are largely essential to ensure the orderly and safe development of the UK's oil and gas resources and also pipelines, to impose safety requirements, to protect the public or to meet European Community requirements. Where regulations result from international requirements, we already aim to keep them to the minimum consistent with those requirements. The review of existing regulations and scrutiny of new regulations is thus unlikely to result in a significant decrease in the number of regulations for which my Department is responsible. I am therefore, pleased that the idea of numerical targets is not being pressed, but we shall nevertheless continue to be guided by the spirit of the deregulation initiative.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Geoffrey Howe, Nigel Lawson, Leon Brittan, Douglas Hurd, Kenneth Baker, Norman Fowler, Michael Jopling, Nicholas Ridley, Norman Tebbit, Richard Luce and Sir Robert Armstrong.

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PETER WALKER

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