



cc: [handwritten initials]

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
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Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

6 December 1985

The Rt Hon The Lord Young of Graffham
Secretary of State for Employment
Department of Employment
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW14 9NF

[handwritten initials]

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PT 19

Thank you for your letter of 29 November enclosing a "concordat" setting out the new arrangements for implementing the deregulation initiative. I know that it was not easy to draw up but I believe that it strikes about the right balance between ensuring that unduly burdensome proposals do not reach the statute book and keeping bureaucracy to the minimum achievable.

2 I am very aware that our two Departments need to be seen to be setting a good example in leading the fight against over regulation of industry. My Department will therefore do all that it can to comply with the arrangements outlined in the concordat. You will understand that it is also important to us that as far as your own Department (including bodies which report to it such as the Health and Safety Executive) is concerned, the new arrangements will operate so far as possible as if the Enterprise and Deregulation Unit were wholly independent of the regulator. As you know some of these regulations can be burdensome to industry and the point will be important to them. It would be helpful to know in due course what arrangements you are making in this regard.

3 As you know, the DTI already has a close relationship with the regulatory parts of several Departments, including your own, and regularly comments on proposals for new regulations with implications for business costs. I believe that the Concordat, if it works properly, will not interfere with existing arrangements but will, on the contrary, serve to reinforce and extend them. We must try to ensure that this is the case.

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4 At the moment there is no clear agreement about the date on which the Concordat comes into force. If the new arrangements are to make any impact in the short term then I believe that proposals in the pipeline must certainly be subject to them unless it is patently too late ie. if Ministers collectively have already agreed that a regulation should be introduced. I hope that this is the general understanding but perhaps this could be clarified at the first meeting of MISC 121.

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

L. Brittan
L. Brittan

LEON BRITTAN

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Got Mach Pt 20

Rayner

