

CONFIDENTIAL

*Prime Minister ②**X seems sensible**AT 6/2*FROM: CHIEF SECRETARY  
DATE: 6 February 1985

PRIME MINISTER

## URBAN POLICY AND PROGRAMME REVIEW

Patrick Jenkin copied to me his minute to you of 4 February to which he attached his proposed answer to a question from Simon Hughes about the conclusions and publication of the Urban Programme and Policy Review.

I am content with the draft reply. It was never intended that the UPPR should be published as it stands although we might publish a summary. Alternatively we could make a public statement about the future of urban policy and Urban Programme, drawing on the work of the UPPR. Both these options should be considered once the outcome of MISC 104's work on the substance is reasonably clear. The draft reply does not preclude this.

3 I am copying this to the other members of MISC 104, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Robin Ibbs.

*PR*

PETER REES

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PRIME MINISTER

URBAN POLICY AND PROGRAMME REVIEW

At the first meeting of MISC 104 colleagues agreed to return to the question of publication of the Urban Policy and Programme Review in due course. It would be helpful to reach an early decision on this, not least because I have to answer a Parliamentary Question about the Review from Simon Hughes on 6 February. I do not think this would cut across the work David Young is doing on carrying forward the Review's proposals.

In the light of the subsequent progress of MISC 104, and developments in other areas touched on by the report such as rate-capping I have decided that on balance publication would not be the right course.

This will cause some disappointment among local authorities. There is also an outstanding request from the House of Commons Environment Committee to see the Report although this is not a topic they are currently investigating. We would justify withholding the report on the grounds that it is subject to the normal confidentiality of officials' advice to Ministers. It is outside the normal run of scrutinies in the range and sensitivity of its coverage of policy issues.

/ I attach a copy of my proposed reply to the PQ.

I am copying this to the other members of MISC 104, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Robin Ibbs.

At. Davis  
for  
P J

4 February 1985

Approved by the SAS and  
signed in his absence

① AT

Prime Minister ② TF

MS TR

4/2.

CEB.I.



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

HOUSE OF COMMONS

For answer on WEDNESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 1985 PQ No 1074 /84/85

Draft reply required by WEDNESDAY 30 JANUARY 1985

Draft Approved by	Signature or Initials	Contact Telephone No	This paper <u>must</u> be kept on top of the right hand side of this file
N Sanders		212 4706	
K E C Sorensen	<i>KES</i>	212 3621	
Parly Secretary			
Minister of State			
Minister			
Secretary of State			

Type of Question:- First Order Oral (No .42....); Priority Written  
 Supplementary Questions are not required.

Please type Member's name, party, constituency and Question here

Mr Simon Hughes (Lib - Southwark and Bermondsey): To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, what are the conclusions of the review of the Inner Cities Directorate of his Department; when the review will be published; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER

Kenneth Baker

Officials have carried out a review of urban policy and the Urban Programme. It is not proposed to publish this internal review but the conclusions will be reflected in the proposals now being prepared to improve the delivery of urban policy and the management of the Urban Programme. These proposals will be announced shortly.



URBAN Policy  
Inner Cities.