



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

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The Rt Hon Peter Rees QC MP  
Chief Secretary to the Treasury  
Treasury Chambers  
Parliament Street, SW1

11 July 1985

*in Rees,*

BIRMINGHAM CONVENTION CENTRE

Patrick Jenkin kindly copied to me his letter to you of 9 July, together with the previous correspondence.

I very much hope we can give Birmingham the support necessary to ensure that their application for ERDF grant succeeds. I have long been impressed by the forward-looking and enterprising approach adopted by the City Council and by its bipartisan basis. As Patrick Jenkin notes, they have made a great success of the National Exhibition Centre and now that they have found ways of minimising the public expenditure consequences of the Convention Centre project, I think we should be prepared to accept the Council's judgement that the project's benefits to their ratepayers are more than sufficient to outweigh the projected revenue deficit.

Like Patrick, I think we risk serious political embarrassment if we do not back this project: in addition to the reasons mentioned by him, a rejection of the project would be seriously damaging to the credibility of the commitment to the development of employment in the tourism and leisure sector inherent in the MISC 115 report circulated yesterday by David Young.

If there are to be any discussions about this proposal, I should welcome an opportunity to be involved. Copies of this letter go to Patrick Jenkin and the other recipients of his letter of 9 July.

*On all issues this is by far the  
most sensible & bipartisan LA*

*200,*

GOWRIE

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Leg 101: Inner Cities Pt 6.