

CJB/NJW

16 July 1985

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1



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Dear Prime Minister,

I have pleasure in enclosing a copy of the Annual Report & Accounts for London Docklands Development Corporation for the year 1984/85 which I hope you will find interesting.

This document as well as being a statement of the achievements to date of the Corporation is also a marketing document aimed at encouraging further investment into the regeneration of London's Docklands.

The final section of the narrative deals with the next and most challenging phase of our task, the regeneration of the Royal Docks. I know that Mr. Lewis Moss has mentioned to you the apprehension that we all fear that we cannot offer certainty of ultimate ownership or long leasehold to prospective investors since we are currently unable to agree acquisition terms for the Port of London Authority land which satisfy Treasury. The Secretary of State and Sir George Young are seeking ways of resolving this problem but there can be no doubt that without control of the land through ownership the task of development will be slowed to an unacceptable pace and the form of the development will be less than satisfactory.

Having made that comment, might I add that during my first year of Chairmanship I have been greatly encouraged by the support that I have received, not only by the Officers and Members of the LDDC staff but also from the Department of the Environment.

Yours sincerely
Christopher Benson

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Chairman Christopher Benson
Deputy Chairman Robert Mellish PC
Chief Executive Reginald Ward