



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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From the Permanent Secretary
Sir Kenneth Stowe GCB CVO

Prime Minister²

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
No. 10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1

1 August, 1986

Dear Prime Minister.

When the Permanent Secretaries met on Wednesday morning with Robert Armstrong in the the Chair, I told him, at my colleagues' request, that we were deeply offended by the criticism of him, as Head of the Civil Service, in the Defence Committee's report on Westland; that the criticism was in our view wholly unwarranted; and that he enjoyed the full confidence of all his colleagues.

I know that Robert has your confidence. I thought you would wish to know that he has ours - and that we have told him so.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Stowe