

(John Patten)



Government Chief Whip

12 Downing Street, London SW1

9 January 1980

Many thanks for your letter of 4 December, sending on the information about new Members' dining groups.

Ian Gow Esq, M.P.,
Parliamentary Private Secretary,
10 Downing Street,
London S.W.1.

Patten TP

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24th December 1979

Thank you very much for your letter of 20th December which was written following our talk on the previous evening.

I am most grateful to you for having written as you did.

If, however, you and the other members of your group think that it would be helpful for me to come along one evening, I would, of course, be only too pleased to do so.

I hope that you will enjoy the Recess.

Ian Gow MP
Parliamentary Private Secretary

John Patten Esq MP

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24th December 1979

New Members Dingy Groups

I am sure that you have this information already, but I thought I would just send to you a copy of John Patten's letter to me of 20th December, together with a copy of my reply.

Ian Gow MP
Parliamentary Private Secretary

The Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP

20ⁿ. December, 1979.

In Confidence

Dear Ian,

It was good to get the chance to discuss matters last night. How very tiresome & inaccurate the article was. As promised, here is a list of those who dine fortnightly at Tristram Gavel-Jones' house. In addition to him, Chris Patten, Nick Hyell, William Waldegrave, Jocelyn Cadbury, Peter Fraser, Alex Pollock, Michael Ancram, Robert Atkins and Richard Needham - as well as myself - were the original group. John Watson was invited later in the summer; I do not believe that he will now be coming again as a result of what has happened.

Robert Cranborne, it was decided last week,
was invited to join if he felt so disposed,
and has accepted. We do not intend to
widen it any further than these 12 names.

The New group is made up, I think -
and I am not absolutely certain of the
names - Keith Best, John Butcher, Stephen Dorrell,
John Heddle, John Lee, John Major, David
Mellor, Robin Squire, David Trippier, Gary
Waller, and John Watson

Love,
John.