



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

31 October 1984

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Dear David,

PRISON SERVICE INDUSTRIES AND FARMS

Against the background of recent difficulties in the Prison Department Directorate of Industries and Farms, the Home Secretary has decided to make a low-key announcement of the package of reforms which have been set in hand to remedy the deficiencies which have been revealed. The changes include a change of name for the headquarters organisation, which will now be known as "Prison Service Industries and Farms".

... The announcement will be made today in the form of the attached answer to an arranged question by Derek Spencer. We are taking no special measures to draw attention to the announcement, and do not expect it to attract any significant attention. As the Prime Minister is aware, however, a court case scheduled for 5 November may arouse some interest in the activities of the former Directorate.

Copies of this letter go to the Private Secretaries to the Lord President, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Yours ever,
Christine

MRS C J HEALD

David Barclay, Esq

Wednesday, 31st October, 1984.

Written No. 358

Mr. Derek Spencer (Leicester South): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has made any changes in the arrangements for the management of prison industries and farms.

MR. LEON BRITTAN

Yes. I have made a number of significant changes in the control, management and policies of prison service industries and farms. The emphasis in these changes, some of which are already under way, is on integrating prison industries more fully with the Prison Service, of which they are part, and on improving their financial and managerial performance.

New machinery for central management will consist of a Board under the chairmanship of the Director of Regimes and Services and will include representatives of the operational arm of the Service - prison governors, as well as those responsible at headquarters for the central direction of industrial and farming activity. Two external Board members will also be appointed. Day to day responsibility will rest with the Director of what, in future, will be called "Prison Service Industries and Farms". The trade name "Prindus" will no longer be used.

/ Future

Future strategy and overall financial targets will be determined in a rolling four year plan. This will take into account such issues as the outcome of marketing reviews, developments on prison regimes and information on the projected size and distribution of the prison population. A fresh assessment of the market for prison-made goods is concentrating on the products made for use by the Prison Service and other public sector markets. Computerisation in key areas will help to strengthen financial controls.

Prison Industries represent one way in which the prisoner can help to offset the cost of his imprisonment and at the same time benefit from work experience. The Prison Service has an obligation to ensure it makes the best use of all its resources. These changes will help to further that aim.