



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

27 June 1985

Dear Keith,

R & D PRIORITIES ACROSS GOVERNMENT

Thank you for your letter of 11 June. I do not think there is anything between us. You accept that I, like other Departmental Ministers must decide what research should be undertaken in support of the policy questions for which I am responsible. I agree that you have a broad responsibility to nurture the nation's science base in universities, polytechnics and Research Councils. Perhaps I might add that I accept that Norman Tebbit in particular also has a broad concern with the adequacy of R&D in both the private and public sectors as a foundation for a prosperous, competitive, industry on which our national future clearly depends.

It may be most useful for us to discuss at E(A) how far we are encountering problems in these three areas - which are, of course, inter-related. For my part I am not aware of difficulties in obtaining the research I need for direct policy purposes. I am, however, aware of concern about the strength of underlying strategic research base on which I - like others - must draw for my specific needs. I am also aware that there are groups (like ACARD) who are worried about the focus of R&D in the sectors important to industry.

My concern in my earlier letter was that we should be cautious about discussing the total Government expenditure on R&D as if it was one entity. So far as my Departmental expenditure is concerned, I judge its sufficiency in terms of my particular needs and I do not find it easy to see how these needs are likely to be modified because the global Government total is judged more or less reasonable. I assume that your concern is similarly with the adequacy of provision for your particular responsibilities.

I am copying this letter, as before, to the Prime Minister, Geoffrey Howe, Keith Joseph, Michael Heseltine, Norman Tebbit and other members of E(A) and to Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Robin Nicholson

Patrick Jenkin

PATRICK JENKIN

IND. P&L. NOV 24

LABORATORIUM



CCND

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE YORK ROAD LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-934 9000

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

1 MEA
2 NPPM
AT
1/16

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin
Secretary of State for the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1

11 June 1985

Dear Patrick,

R & D PRIORITIES ACROSS GOVERNMENT

I was interested to see a copy of your letter to Nigel Lawson of 14 May about the proposed discussion in E(A). I am writing to clear up one possible point of misunderstanding - please forgive me if I have misread what you were saying. In your letter you said that "we do not undertake R and D for its own sake, but in support of policy." I take it that you were here speaking of your Department's interest, not the Government's. I would characterise the distinction thus. The Government supports basic and strategic research, and commissions applied research. Through my Budget I fund research and related training in the universities, the polytechnics, in other institutions of higher education and in and through the Research Councils. It is this system that I have in mind when I speak of the science base; and it is a base that in the main feeds all the other requirements of the economy, governmental and otherwise, for highly qualified manpower in science and technology, for the advance of knowledge, and for maintaining a national research capability. In this sense my policy concerns in this field are as broad as those of the economy itself. In addition other Departments, and mine to a small extent, commission research for particular policy purposes. Thus I would maintain that Government R and D policy must be concerned both with the science base as a whole, and with the particular policy related components that find expression through commissioned research and through the laboratories of individual Departments. These components interact, sometimes strongly, and - provided we keep in mind the distinctions I have outlined - I think it is right and profitable to consider our R and D policies overall. I am copying this letter to recipients of yours.

Enn. Kent.

IND POL: Moratorium Support & Innovation:

NOV 15