

Subject

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SRWAEF

bcc Oliver

Letwin

cc Hasler

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 July 1985

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL: REVIEW OF ILEA

The Prime Minister held a meeting today to discuss the Local Government Bill and the review of ILEA. Present were the Lord President, the Secretaries of State for Education and Science, and Environment, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Whip, the Minister for Local Government and Lord Denham. Mr. Letwin was also present.

The Lord President said the Government had gradually gained the upper hand as the Bill had passed through the Lords. The Opposition had hoped to wreck the Bill but had inflicted only four defeats. There was now the prospect of seeing the Bill through to completion before the Recess, which would enable preparations for the transition to begin before the holidays. The Lord President recommended that the amendment on the countryside should be accepted while those on highways and trading standards should be reversed, subject to a minor concession on the latter. He believed these changes could be secured.

The Lord President said the position on ILEA was much more difficult. Initially he and the Secretary of State for the Environment had been hopeful that a compromise could be agreed under which the results of reviews of ILEA before 1991 could be implemented by secondary legislation, with primary legislation being required thereafter. Further discussion had led him to the conclusion that this could not be achieved or only after great argument and delay. The issue of secondary legislation was a difficult one for the Lords. There was a convention that the Opposition there did not oppose secondary legislation but this convention would be strained if secondary legislation were used to abolish or substantially change an elected body. The Lord President concluded, therefore, that the Government should accept that all changes to ILEA would require primary legislation.

After a brief discussion it was agreed that the amendments should be handled in the manner proposed by the Lord President.

I am copying this letter to Elizabeth Hodgkinson (Department of Education and Science), John Ballard

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Department of the Environment), David Morris (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office), Mike Bailey (Office of the Minister for Local Government), David Beamish (Lord Denham's Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

(ANDREW TURNBULL)

Miss Joan MacNaughton,
Lord President's Office

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DA



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 July 1985

Dear Joan.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL: REVIEW OF ILEA

Thank you for pointing out an error in my letter to you of 2 July recording the meeting of the same day. The penultimate sentence of para 2 should read

"The Lord President recommended that the amendment on the countryside should be accepted while those on highways and waste disposal should be reversed, subject to a minor concession on the latter."

I am copying this letter to Elizabeth Hodgkinson (Department of Education and Science), John Ballard (Department of the Environment), David Morris (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office), Mike Bailey (Office of the Minister for Local Government), David Beamish (Lord Denham's Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Your sincerely

Andrew Turnbull

(Andrew Turnbull)

Miss Joan MacNaughton,
Lord President's Office.

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