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1986/87 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME

QL is currently considering bids for Government legislation in 1986/87 and you will be reporting its conclusions to Cabinet.

The summary list of bids submitted by Departments includes a number of significant items of deregulation. These include liquor licensing, company law and health and safety (on which I am replying separately to your letter of 5 February). There are however other items which are regulatory in intention and will impose further burdens or constraints on employers.

Kenneth Clarke and I will be following up with colleagues concerned individual items which look as if they may impose significant burdens. There is however an important general issue which QL - and subsequently the Cabinet - will wish to bear in mind in considering priorities for inclusion in 1986/87 programme. This is the need for us to be able to take account of the expected impact on business of each proposal requiring further regulation. Bills will of course reflect Departments' own policies and priorities but the benefits foreseen need to be weighed in each case against the effect on business since this will determine how far it is consistent with our wider target of increasing employment. The compliance cost assessments which Departments are now undertaking of proposed regulations should help substantially in this process.

I am copying this letter to members of the Cabinet, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

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