

CSB



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Mark Addison Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
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My ref:

Your ref:

4 August 1986

Dear Mark,

## NEW POLLUTION INSPECTORATE

at 11ap

Thank you for your letter of 28 July, conveying the Prime Minister's agreement to the transfer of the Industrial Air Pollution Inspectorate from the HSE to this department to form part of a combined new pollution inspectorate.

My Secretary of State intends to announce the formation of the new inspectorate at a press conference at 11am on Thursday 7 August. He circulated a first draft of his proposed announcement under cover of his letter of 29 July to Lord Young (copied to the Prime Minister and other interested colleagues). In the light of subsequent discussions with the Department of Employment and the Welsh Office we have revised the draft announcement, a copy of which is now attached. I would be grateful for any final comments on this text by close of play, Tuesday 5 August.

On the other points in your letter, we are setting in progress the necessary action to meet the Prime Minister's request that we should appoint an action manager and draw up in consultation with the Department of Employment (and the Welsh Office) an action plan for implementation of the proposals within three months; and that we should, in consultation with MAFF and HSE, put forward quickly a series of measures designed to ensure better co-ordination on nuclear inspection issues.

On the publication of the Efficiency Scrutiny, our initial view is that there should be sufficient interest in this document to warrant issuing it as a priced HMSO document. This will inevitably take a little while to arrange and could not in any event be achieved by next Thursday; but we will be considering further the timing and handling of this and I will write to you again shortly with proposals.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Lord President of the Council, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Employment, Energy, Trade and Industry, Scotland and Wales, the Paymaster General, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Robin Ibbs.

Yours sincerely,

Isobel R. Ogilvie

MISS ISOBEL OGILVIE  
Private Secretary



**DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT**

**GOVERNMENT TO CREATE A UNIFIED POLLUTION INSPECTORATE**

With the agreement of the Prime Minister, Secretary of State for the Environment Nicholas Ridley today announced the Government's intention to bring together the central government pollution inspectorates to form a new unified Pollution Inspectorate in the Department of the Environment. The new inspectorate will come into being on 1 April 1987, and will be known as Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution.

The Inspectorate's objectives will be to develop a more coherent approach to the control of industrial emissions and discharges to air, water or land in England and Wales, and to provide advice that will help the other pollution control authorities to carry out their statutory responsibilities.

Commenting on the proposal - which received strong support from an efficiency scrutiny conducted earlier this year - Mr Ridley said:

"A unified Pollution Inspectorate will be an instrument for developing coordinated and practical measures for environmental protection. In creating this new body we are

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responding to calls from industry as well as from environmentalists for a clear focus to ensure the most effective use of resources available to control industrial pollution and to provide advice on ways of dealing with industrial wastes".

The attached note describes in more detail the organisational changes and the proposed functions of the new Inspectorate.

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## Background Note

The Secretaries of State for the Environment and for Wales are already responsible for air pollution policy. At present, they are advised on matters relating to the control of industrial air pollution by the Health and Safety Commission. The creation of the unified inspectorate will involve the transfer to the Department of the Environment of the Health and Safety Executive's Industrial Air Pollution Inspectorate. The new inspectorate will also draw together staff already in DoE in the Radiochemical Inspectorate and in, DoE and the Welsh Office, in the Hazardous Waste Inspectorate. In addition the new Water Pollution Inspectorate proposed in the Government's consultation paper "The Water Environment: The Next Steps" would form part of it.

The transfer of functions from the Health and Safety Executive to the Department of the Environment will take place in the context of arrangements designed to ensure close co-operation between the new inspectorate and the Health and Safety Executive. The other Health and Safety Executive inspectorates, which will not be affected by the change, will continue to exercise the functions arising from the Health and Safety Commission's responsibilities for the safety of industrial processes, and the arrangements for co-operation will provide for the necessary liaison between those inspectorates and the new Pollution Inspectorate.

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One of the new inspectorate's major tasks will be to develop an approach to pollution control which seeks the "best practicable environmental option" (BPEO) in relation to industrial emissions and discharges. The need for a concerted approach to the problems of air, land and water pollution was first proposed in the fifth report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in 1976. The Royal Commission are now engaged on a further study of this issue, and their conclusions will be an important input to the work of the inspectorate.

The new inspectorate will also need to work closely with the water authorities and local pollution control authorities. However, its work will not diminish the statutory responsibilities of those authorities. Discussions will take place with them on the implications of the establishment of the new inspectorate for their particular responsibilities and on appropriate liaison arrangements. There will be early consultations with departmental trade unions representing the staff affected in both DoE and HSE.

The Government has announced its intention to review air pollution control legislation and to publish a consultation paper discussing options for effective powers which could be made available, as necessary, to either a central inspectorate or to local authorities. It is expected that a consultation paper will be published in the autumn.

Arrangements in Scotland, where a unified pollution inspectorate already exists, will not be affected by the new Inspectorate for England and Wales.

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ENV AFFAIRS Acid Rain  
PT4



of water or waste disposal

proposed