



Minister of State
for the Environment
Countryside and Water

Department of the Environment
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My Ref: PSO/34309/88

16 June 1988

Dear Secretary of State

with regard if agreed.

DEREGULATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thank you for your reply of 25 May. When I wrote on 27 April, I said that I saw no point in formally reviewing the cost of compliance of existing environmental regulations: we should concentrate our efforts on new proposals which are coming thick and fast, particularly in the European context. Your letter acknowledged this point and I was a little surprised therefore to see that at the meeting of Misc 133 on 8 June William Waldegrave was pressed to provide compliance costs assessments of existing regulations. I hope that, given our exchange of letters, this point will not be pursued.

I fully accept the importance of securing a greater rationalisation and simplification of current regulations. I hope to be able to put to you and colleagues shortly a set of proposals to achieve a "more coherent multi-media regime of control in consultation with industry". They would provide a framework within which industry will be able to participate both collectively and individually in the process of regulating industrial pollution through the co-operative and pragmatic approach of HMIP.

I accept also the point you make about the need for close consultation with industry and the importance of allowing adequate time for considering proposals, particularly when there are concurrent issues which interact with one another. I think there would be value in our officials getting together to identify the problems more closely and I have asked our Central Unit on the Environment to make contact with the EDU on this point.

You raised the specific issue of consulting industry about charges for environmental regulation both in your letter and at the 8th meeting of Misc 133. I entirely agree with the need for full and timely consultations with industry. DOE officials have had discussions with industry representatives on this topic and have made it plain that we are fully committed to consultation as our thinking develops. I understand that there is to be a further meeting amongst officials from DOE and other Departments on the subject of charging on 28 June. This should provide a good opportunity for reviewing DOE's approach and the character and adequacy of the consultation with industry.



If there are any outstanding points on environmental pollution issues, I hope it will be possible to cover them in the bilateral which William Waldegrave is having with Francis Maude on 20 June.

/ I am copying this letter to other members of the group.

Yours sincerely
Steve Watt

THE EARL OF CAITHNESS

(agreed by the Minister,
but signed in his
absence.)



The Rt Hon The Lord Young of Graffham