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ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE

LONDON, WC2A 2LL

20 June 1983

The Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON S W 1

Dear Leon.

SCRUTINY OF NEW POWERS OF ENTRY

Your Department will be aware of the Report by David Mitchell (then Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Department of Industry) on the objections raised by the National Federation of Self-Employed to existing powers of entry to business premises. As a result the former Solicitor General was given the responsibility for the scrutiny of all proposals in primary or subordinate legislation for new powers of entry. This involved a consideration of policy issues as to the acceptability of such proposals and operated independently of the normal scrutiny already undertaken by your Department.

I was never wholly in favour of a Law Officer, or my Department, being engaged in this work. When the Prime Minister considered this arrangement in December 1982 she concluded, in response to Sir Ian Percival's express wishes, that she would leave matters as they were for the time being. I consider that the time for a change has now come and I propose that your Department should take on this function.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours etc. Michael

Sov Machinery
: Ministerial Responsibility
for Scrutiny of Powers of Entry
Oct '82

21 JUL 1982



*With the compliments of
the Attorney-General*

*Attorney General's Chambers,
Law Officers' Department,
Royal Courts of Justice,
Strand. W.C.2A 2LL*

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