

SUBJECT CC MASTER

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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

10 December 1987

*Dear Peter*

**INNER CITIES**

Following her meeting with the Chancellor of the Duchy yesterday, the Prime Minister had a meeting this morning with the Secretary of State for the Environment about inner cities. The Secretary of State suggested some changes to the press notice, a revised version of which I attach.

The Prime Minister thinks it most important to delay the announcement until after the conclusion of the debate on the Community Charge Bill. She therefore has it in mind to announce the arrangements on Friday 18 December.

The Prime Minister does not want any hint of the announcement to leak out before it is made. I should therefore be glad if you would give this letter and its attachment the most restricted circulation.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Robin Young (Department of the Environment) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

*Two only*

*Nigel Wicks*

**N. L. WICKS**

Peter Smith, Esq.,  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office

**PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL**

INNER CITIES

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, will, in addition to his other duties including those in the Department of Trade and Industry, take responsibility, under the Prime Minister, for the co-ordination of Government action on inner cities and for their presentation.

Notes for Editors

1. Mr. Clarke will assist the Prime Minister in the co-ordination of Government action towards the inner cities; and provide a focus, under the Prime Minister, for the presentation of those policies.
2. There is no change in the Departmental responsibilities of Ministers with programmes which are involved in inner city regeneration. These programmes will continue to be administered by the Departments concerned. Mr. Clarke will be available as an initial point of contact for those wishing to contribute to, or know about, Government policies towards, and support for, inner cities.