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Prime Minister

INNER CITIES

at flap, 2nd file

Your Private Secretary's minute of 9 November to Sir Robert Armstrong referred to the possible publication of a White Paper on Inner Cities, and I understand that preparation of such a document is in hand with a view to publication in the first week of March. This raises the question of how to present our urban policy in Scotland.

There are several developments in Scotland to which I would wish to draw attention. We already have a number of urban area initiatives in Scotland. However, as many areas on the periphery of Scottish cities now contain more serious problems of urban deprivation than do the inner cities, I propose to set up a number of new initiatives in outer city areas. These initiatives would simultaneously pursue economic, housing, social and environmental objectives (as did the GEAR project). A key aim would be to involve the private sector in the initiatives to the maximum extent from the outset. I would expect to contain the public sector contribution within agreed PES provision.

I would also wish to highlight the priority being given to urban renewal by the Scottish Development Agency, the enhanced Urban Programme in Scotland, and the role in urban regeneration proposed for Scottish Homes.

I propose that the best way to present these developments in Scotland would be for the White Paper to be written on a Great Britain basis and to include brief references to Scotland (and Wales) where appropriate. This would allow us to demonstrate that, although the details of policy instruments may vary, there is a unified approach to urban problems throughout Britain. In addition, however, I would propose to issue an

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explanatory document at the same time which would explain in more detail what is happening in Scotland. This approach would follow the pattern which we adopted for the recent DTI White Paper.

If you agree with these proposals my officials will liaise with the Cabinet Office in preparing the White Paper.

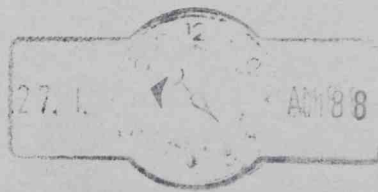
I am copying this minute to the members of E(UP) and Sir Robin Butler.

MR

M R

26 January 1988

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REG POLICY : Inner critical pt 12



File SH
CCBG

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

2 February 1988

Dear David,

INNER CITIES

The Prime Minister was grateful for your Secretary of State's note of 26 January about the coverage of the forthcoming inner cities publication.

The Prime Minister believes the document should mainly focus on the position of England, but also considers it important for there to be short sections on parallel inner city developments in both Scotland and Wales.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of E(UP) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

*Yours,
Paul*

PAUL GRAY

David Crawley, Esq.,
Scottish Office

SH

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cc/BG



SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

K E C Sorensen Esq
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AS

NBAH
PR26
1/3

29 February 1988

Dear Mr Sorensen,
ACTION FOR CITIES'

will request if reqd.

Peter Smith's letter of 23 February sought comments on the latest draft of the above document, which now includes the section on Scotland. He asked that these should be sent to you by 6.00 pm on Wednesday 24 February, but I am afraid it was not possible to meet that deadline. I understand, however, that the following points have been passed to you by telephone, subject to their being confirmed by Scottish Office Ministers.

The section on Scotland, which was approved by my Secretary of State and sent to you on 23 February, has been put in the style of the rest of the document and this is acceptable. In the redrafting, however, a few important points have been lost. These should be reinstated and are covered in the revised draft attached. Scottish Office Ministers have now decided that the separate Scottish document should be launched a few weeks later than the GB publication, by which time they expect to be able to accompany it with an announcement about the location of their proposed new initiatives in peripheral estates. It has not therefore been finalised yet, nor has a name been chosen for it. This point is also covered in the revised draft attached.

On the document as a whole, it would be preferable if the Foreword made the point that the emphasis of the document is on English inner city areas although there are separate sections on Scotland and Wales. As it is the reader has to read through to the end of the document to have this clarified. The point could be met by adding a new sentence to the third last paragraph of the Foreword. After "cultural environment", add "It deals mainly with England but separate sections outline the position in Scotland and Wales." It would also be helpful if the document said explicitly that figures quoted, in various places, refer to England unless otherwise stated. Perhaps a footnote could be added.

I understand that the reference to Easterhouse in Glasgow, in the section on transport, has now been deleted, as suggested earlier by Scottish Office officials.

I am copying this letter to Peter Smith, to Private Secretaries to other members of E(UP), and to Trevor Woolley.

Yours truly
David Crawley
DAVID CRAWLEY
Private Secretary

Scotland

The challenges faced by Scotland's cities and industrial towns are similar to those elsewhere in Britain. So is the Government's approach to tackling them. But the means sometimes differ.

The Scottish Development Agency (SDA), for example, is a major instrument for dealing with urban renewal in Scotland. It has led or is currently leading important initiatives in Glasgow (Glasgow Eastern Area Renewal - GEAR), Leith, Motherwell, Coatbridge, Dundee, Inverclyde and Clydebank. The GEAR project was a major co-operative effort to revive one of the most run-down areas in Europe. Local authorities, the Scottish Special Housing Association (SSHA) and the Housing Corporation in Scotland (HCiS) have been developing and improving housing: they have been encouraged to tackle housing problems in run-down areas and to take community-based initiatives. The private sector has worked in close partnership with the public sector.

Much has been achieved and much learned in tackling urban problems in Scotland. For example, the city of Glasgow has been transformed. The Government is determined to sustain the momentum. Urban renewal is to be a major priority for the SDA over the next few years. Funds for the Urban Programme are being further increased. Scottish Homes is soon to be created as a new and important housing agency to develop housing and it will build on the expertise of SSHA and HCiS.

A new priority is now to be given to large peripheral housing estates where new initiatives are planned. The private sector will be invited to play a major role, in partnership with the public sector and local communities.

The Government will publish shortly a separate document to explain in more detail current action in Scotland and plans for new initiatives.

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cc/BG



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From: R T J Wilson
1 February 1988

P 03000

MR GRAY

cc Mr Sorensen
Mr Lean

INNER CITIES: SCOTLAND

1. You asked for ^{Gray} advice on the Secretary of State for Scotland's minute of 26 January to the Prime Minister.
2. The main thrust of the forthcoming document on the inner cities (we are trying to avoid use of the term "White Paper") will be directed to England, for the good reason that this is where the bulk of the inner cities are. We are, however, sympathetic to the idea of including a couple of paragraphs each on Scotland and Wales and Mr Sorensen's unit are already in touch with Scottish Office officials about the wording.
3. Unfortunately we have heard today that the Secretary of State for Wales has discussed with his officials the possibility of similarly including a couple of paragraphs about Wales, and has said that he is opposed to it. This is because he is planning a Welsh Valleys initiative and does not want it to be pre-empted.
4. It is going to be difficult to have a reference to Scotland but not a reference to Wales. But I would not have thought that it would be beyond the wit of man to include some sort of reference to Wales, however brief, if only on the lines of saying that the Secretary of State for Wales will be bringing forward proposals for Wales in the near future. Mr Sorensen is pursuing this with officials from the Welsh Office.
5. In the meantime you may wish to reply to Mr Rifkind's private secretary on the lines of the attached draft. It may help to put a little pressure on Mr Walker to be more forthcoming.

RTJ

R T J WILSON

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DRAFT LETTER FROM MR GRAY TO PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR SCOTLAND

INNER CITIES

The Prime Minister was grateful for your Secretary of State's
minute of 26 January.

She believes that the main emphasis of the forthcoming document
will need to be on inner cities in England but she is sympathetic
to the inclusion of brief references to Scotland and Wales where
appropriate. Before taking a final decision she would like to see
a possible text. I understand that officials are in touch about
this.

I am copying this minute to members of E(UP) and Sir Robin Butler.

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PRIME MINISTER

INNER CITIES DOCUMENT

The attached note of 26 January from Mr. Rifkind proposes that the document to be launched on 7 March should include material on Scotland and Wales. I ^{have} discussed this with the Cabinet Office Inner Cities Unit. Although they consider the document should mainly focus on the position in England they agree it would be sensible to have short sections on parallel developments in Scotland and Wales. But they also tell me that Mr. Walker is opposed to including material on Wales and wants to handle his Welsh valleys initiative separately.

I think it would be very odd to have no mention of Scotland and Wales in the main document. Content that I respond saying you agree there should be short sections on both Scotland and Wales?

PCG.

Paul Gray

1 February 1988

Yes

JA2AXI



SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and
Minister for Trade and Industry
Department of Trade and Industry
1-19 Victoria Street
LONDON
SW1H 0ET

16 December 1987

Dear Kenneth,

INNER CITIES

Thank you for copying to me your minute of 30 November to the Prime Minister about private sector involvement in inner city initiatives.

Your proposal for a central contact point in the Cabinet Office manned by a secondee from the private sector is an interesting one. Like you I have been considering how best to increase the contribution by the private sector to urban regeneration, though in Scotland given the position of the Scottish Office I do not see the risk of simultaneous approaches by different Government departments as a problem. We do, however, have the problem that there are very few major Scottish companies and that many of the larger companies operating in Scotland have their headquarters in the South. I should want to try to ensure, therefore, that the person appointed was familiar with companies' Scottish operations and that his remit included directing appropriate enquiries to relevant institutions in Scotland. Subject to that qualification, and the views of colleagues, I would be inclined to support your proposal.

I have copied this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of E(UP) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,
Malcolm

MALCOLM RIFKIND

Regional Pol. Inner Cities
Pt 12.

