



the department for Enterprise

The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Clarke QC MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and
Minister of Trade and Industry

RESTRICTED

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Miss L-smith.
Mr Perry
Ms McLean
Mr Handbottle
Mr Hill
Mr Sorensen ✓
(Cabinet office)

Dear Secretary of State,

ACTION FOR CITIES

Arrangements are well in hand for the launch of the Action for Cities Document on Monday 7 March. As you know, at the press conference for the launch, colleagues would be announcing a number of new initiatives. These will be accompanied by individual press notices. The Prime Minister has asked that the press notices have a common format under the Action for Cities logo. The design of the press notice is being finalised by Eric Sorensen's Urban Policy Co-ordination Unit at the Cabinet Office. At the same time we have been giving further thought to the common format for the text. We have decided that this should be a brief summary of the new initiative being announced followed by a quote from the relevant Secretary of State. We have worked through all of the drafts on this basis. I attach a copy of the resultant draft of the new initiative you will be announcing. I should be grateful if you could consider the draft and let Eric Sorensen have any comments, with a copy to my office, by 5pm today if possible. My apologies for the early deadline.

As you may be aware, I was asked to discuss with John Wakeham how best to inform Parliament of the new initiatives. I have agreed with him that there should be an ordinary written PQ for each of them. These will be answered at 11.00 am on 7 March, to coincide with the launch of the Document. There is a risk that

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this will give rise to some concern in the House but John's advice, with which I concur, is that it is the best arrangement in the circumstances. In the case of your own initiative I would suggest the following wording for the question:

To ask the Home Secretary what further steps he is taking to combat crime in inner city areas?

I should be grateful if you could let me have any comments on the above draft as soon as possible. Could you also please let me know if you would like me to arrange for the question to be tabled. In any event, in order to avoid coinciding with other Action for Cities questions for answer on 7 March, and thereby possibly drawing premature attention to a major announcement on that day, I would like it to be tabled on Wednesday 2 March.

I am writing in similar terms to other colleagues who will be making announcements on 7 March, with copies to Eric Sorensen.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Smith

PP KENNETH CLARKE
(Approved by the Chancellor and
signed in his absence)