

(A) CONFIDENTIAL



Cite PM
cc BG

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

24 May 1988

Dear Peter,

ACTION FOR CITIES

The Prime Minister has seen the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's minute of 31 March and subsequent Ministerial correspondence from the Home Secretary, Secretary of State for Employment, Secretary of State for Environment, Secretary of State for Scotland and the Chief Secretary. She has also seen the Chancellor of the Duchy's further minute of 20 May.

She agrees that it is important to maintain the momentum on inner cities and, subject to the points below, is generally content with the action which the Chancellor of the Duchy is proposing to take. She also welcomes the contribution which other Ministers are making.

On the question of targeting, she agrees that it would be wrong to try to draw up a fixed short list of areas for favourable treatment but believes that it is nonetheless important to look for opportunities to co-ordinate Departmental initiatives so as to increase their effect, particularly in the areas where they seem likely to achieve results. The aim should be to produce a string of success stories in inner cities over the next two or three years which the Government can point to as the results of its policies.

On the role of the Cabinet Office Unit on the Inner Cities, she thinks it is important that the Unit should concentrate on co-ordinating the Government effort within the terms of the announcement on 18 December and that it should not expand beyond its present size. She would not want it to take on an executive role, for instance by taking the lead in exploring with major companies practical ways in which they can help inner city regeneration: this must be a matter for Departments. Similarly she thinks that an inward seconded from the private sector might be a good idea but the secondment should be to a Department with executive responsibilities for direct contact with industry, not the Cabinet Office.

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BF || If it proves necessary, the Prime Minister will hold a meeting in a month or so to review the progress which Ministers have made with their various initiatives since the launch of Action for Cities on 7 March, and to ensure that every opportunity is being taken to co-ordinate action. But before there is any decision about a meeting, she suggests that the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster should circulate a paper which summarises progress of the various initiatives.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to other members of E(UP) and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely
Nigel Wicks

N. L. WICKS

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

REG POLICY: Inner Cities
pt 13

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DRAFT LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY TO MR CLARKE'S PRIVATE SECRETARY

ACTION FOR CITIES

The Prime Minister has seen ~~the~~ Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's minutes of 31 March and subsequent Ministerial correspondence from the Home Secretary, Secretary of State for Employment, the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Chief Secretary. *She has also seen the Chancellor of the Duchy's minute of 20 May.*

She agrees that it is important to maintain the momentum on inner cities and, subject to the points below, is generally content with the action which the Chancellor of the Duchy is proposing to take. She also welcomes the contribution which other Ministers are making.

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If it would be helpful, it is necessary to read well

The Prime Minister would like to hold a meeting in a month or so to review the progress which Ministers have made with their various initiatives since the launch of Action for Cities on 7 March, and to ensure that every opportunity is being taken to co-ordinate action. She would be grateful if the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster ^{should} would circulate a paper which could serve as a basis for the discussion when it is arranged.

I am copying this letter to the private secretaries of other members of E(UP) and to Sir Robin Butler.

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