

PRIME MINISTER

Last year my Department conducted a Rayner Scrutiny with a view to improving the effectiveness of Government's measures to encourage the efficient use of energy. The Scrutiny's main recommendation was that an Energy Efficiency Office be established within my Department to bring together a number of closely related programmes previously spread over several departments. I am discussing the recommendations with colleagues. The Report would not normally be published until it had been agreed by Government as a whole.

Last year the Select Committee on Energy published a Report on Energy Conservation in Buildings, which was critical of that lack of co-ordination of the Government's programme which the Scrutiny report addresses.

Although the customary six month period has elapsed since the Committee made their report, I have delayed my response, because I wished it to take account of the recommendations of the Rayner Scrutiny report.

The Select Committee has now asked me for a copy of the Scrutiny report. I think that it would be unnecessarily provocative to refuse. In the circumstances I am minded to accede to the Select Committee's request, making it clear that the recommendations are still being discussed.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Secretaries of State for Industry and Transport, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the Lord Privy Seal and the Secretary of State for the Environment.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY

2 February 1983

*Handwritten signature*

*Handwritten signature*

*Prime Minister*

*Agree?*

*R 2/2*

*Yes*

*CO*

*010*





10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 February 1983

Dear Julian,

The Prime Minister has now seen your Secretary of State's minute about the request of the Select Committee on Energy for a copy of the Rayner Scrutiny on the Government's measures to encourage the efficient use of energy. The Prime Minister has agreed that Mr. Lawson may accede to the Select Committee's request on the basis described in the minute.

I am sending copies of this letter to Caroline Varley (Department of Industry), Toby Johns (Department of Transport), John Gieve (Chief Secretary's Office), Mary Brown (Lord Privy Seal's Office) and Roger Bright (Department of the Environment).

Yours ever,

T. F.

Timothy Flesher

Julian West, Esq.,  
Department of Energy.

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