

CONFIDENTIAL

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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 3EB

14 August 1987

*Dear Secretary of State,***ROLE OF THE TREASURER**

You copied your minute to the Prime Minister of 5 August to me. I have also seen the Prime Minister's reply of 10 August.

I support your proposals subject to the Prime Minister's points. The reports on proposed illegal or unauthorised payments will provide auditors with a clear signal that the stop power, proposed in your letter of 17 July, may need to be used. However there is a danger that some local authorities may be rather slow to fill vacancies for Treasurers when they arise in future. Arrangements will be needed to ensure the proposed duties are still fulfilled in these circumstances.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of E(LF) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours sincerely**John Major*

PP JOHN MAJOR

(Approved by the Chief Secretary and signed in his absence.)

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