



Ms Caroline Slocock
PS/Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

Prime Minister ①

Content for DOE
to discontinue
new annual reports
to you on issuing
of circulars to
local authorities?

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-276 3000

My ref:

Your ref:

Aug 3 August 1989

Dear Caroline

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larger it is not-
reduced as a result
of increase of the
no. of circulars
not

CIRCULARS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

This Department is responsible for the exercise, introduced in 1979, to reduce the number of circulars issued by Government Departments to local authorities. Each year, since 1981, my Secretary of State has made an annual progress report to the Prime Minister.

The original purpose of the exercise was a reduction to one-third of the number of circulars issued in the final 12 months of the last Labour administration (1,873 in the year ended April 1979). That objective has been more than fully achieved; despite a small increase this year - perhaps not surprising in view of the heavy legislative progress since the last election - the reduction since 1979 is 70% overall.

Now that the exercise has been in operation for ten years, it is perhaps appropriate to question whether an annual report to the Prime Minister is still required. Many Departments have introduced their own procedures for limiting the number of circulars issued - here in DOE, for example, Ministerial approval for each circular must be obtained - but we have never exercised control over other Departments' circulars and have merely collected returns for the annual report.

Clearly, the number of circulars issued needs to be kept to the essential minimum and we would propose to write to all Departments to reinforce that message.

I would be grateful to know whether this would be an appropriate time to discontinue the annual report on circulars.

Yours

KATE BUSH

KATE BUSH
Private Secretary

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MEMARKQ



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

9 August 1989

From the Private Secretary

Dear Kate,

CIRCULARS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

This is to confirm my telephone call earlier this week about your letter to me of 3 August.

The Prime Minister agrees that there is no need for her to receive annual progress reports in future. However, she is concerned that this should not be seen as a signal for increasing the number of circulars.

Yours,

Caroline

CAROLINE SLOCOCK

Miss Kate Bush,
Department of the Environment

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