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From the Minister for the Arts

The Rt Hon Kenneth Baker MP
Minister for Local Government
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB

8 May 1985

Ken Kenneth,

ABOLITION: PROVISIONS TO ENCOURAGE CO-OPERATION

*will request
if req.*

I would just like to make one comment in relation to your letter of 3 May to Patrick Jenkin. It is that I wholly endorse your proposal to introduce a general duty on all the authorities and their staff to co-operate with each other and to facilitate the transfer of functions.

It has bothered me for some time that museum and art gallery staff in the GLC and Metropolitan authorities have been placed under enormous personal pressure. On the one hand they are forbidden to speak to officials in my department, and on the other hand, being responsible professional people, in charge of staff, and important collections, they wish to do everything to facilitate the transfer of functions. I shall be relieved on their behalf to know that it would be extremely difficult, after the introduction of your proposed provision, for them to be dismissed for having co-operated with my staff otherwise than instructed by their respective councils. It might also increase the provision of information if this fear of dismissal is thus minimised.

I am copying this to Willie Whitelaw and Bertie Denham; to the other members of MISC 95 and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Long,
T. J. G.*

GOWRIE

3 MAY 1985

