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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 December 1980

Dear Alex

BF 5.1.81

The Prime Minister today had a meeting with Lady Young, Sir Horace Cutler, and Professor David Smith, to take stock of the consideration of the future of the Inner London Education Authority.

The suggestion was put forward that there should now be a Green Paper on the subject. Sir Horace Cutler and Professor Smith clearly favoured a discussion document which would make clear that retention of ILEA was the preferred option, but that the Government were looking at ways of improving democratic and financial accountability. Sir Horace and Professor Smith also considered that a Green Paper should canvas the possibility of a directly elected authority.

The Prime Minister was attracted by these arguments, and asked Lady Young to give further thought to the possibility of carrying the issues forward by means of a Green Paper.

I understand that H Committee has today decided to invite Cabinet to consider the future of ILEA. It would be helpful if Lady Young could report to the Prime Minister on the Green Paper suggestion very early in the New Year, so that this can also be considered in Cabinet discussion.

I am sending copies of this letter to Stephen Boys-Smith (Home Office), Peter Cash (Department of the Environment) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Mike Paterson

Miss A. J. Stewart,
Department of Education and Science.

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