



Prime Minister ④

You might like to see as an example of a Departmental report. The Department's aims and achievements can be found on page 8

2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

3 October 1983

AT 3/10

A very lush presentation! But very interesting. *me*

Dear Andrew

DOE ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

/ My Secretary of State has asked me to send you the enclosed copy of the DOE Report for 1982/83. It sets out the Department's aims and achievements for that year, bringing together information about our work, in particular about our spending record, which until now has only been available from a number of sources. If Parliament and the public find the Report valuable, the Secretary of State may consider making it a regular part of our means of informing them about our work.

/ I am also sending copies of the Report to Mary Brown and Michael Corcoren. Lord Gowrie and Mr Heyhoe will be meeting the Secretary of State on 25 October to discuss systems for management information and review. My Secretary of State believes that this type of Report could play an important role in the presentation and review of programmes as a part of the Financial Management Initiative, in line with last September's White Paper on Efficiency and Effectiveness in the Civil Service.

Yours sincerely

*J F Ballard*

J F BALLARD  
Private Secretary

Andrew Turnbull Esq



## Press Notice

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4 October 1983

### DOE'S FIRST ANNUAL REPORT PUBLISHED

Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, today published his Department's Annual Report and Financial Statement for 1982/83.

Commenting, Mr Jenkin said:-

"One of the aims of the Government's drive to improve Financial Management is for each Department to have a clear view of its objectives and to assess how well it is doing in achieving them. This Report sets out the Department's aims and achievements for 1982/83. It brings together in one published document, information about our work, and in particular about our spending record, which up till now has only been available from a number of sources.

"I should welcome views on the advantages of presenting the information in this way. If Parliament and the public find it valuable, it could become a regular publication."

The Report describes progress in each of ten main policy areas for which the Secretary of State is responsible: local government, housing, planning, inner cities, nature and the countryside, environmental protection, water services, the construction industry, the historic and architectural heritage, and sport and recreation. It gives details of the expenditure by the Department and other public bodies active in these areas, as well as more detailed accounts of the Department's own administrative and operating costs.

#### NOTE TO EDITORS

Copies of the Report have been placed in the House of Commons and House of Lords Libraries, and have been sent to the Environment Select Committee. It is on sale to the public, price £4.00 (including postage), from Room N10/19A, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1.



It has been entered in the competition for annual reports by public sector bodies run by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

The report does not cover the work of the Property Services Agency, which is a semi-autonomous unit within the Department. The PSA annual report will be published shortly.

Press Enquiries: 01-212 3493/5  
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On Her Majesty's Service

CODE No. 27-74



Department of the Environment  
Report for the year  
1 April 1982 to 31 March 1983



**Report for the financial year 1982/83**

The Department of the Environment was created in 1970, and assumed the functions of the former Ministries of Transport, Housing and Local Government and Public Building and Works. In 1976 the Transport element was separated to form a separate Department.

The Secretary of State for the Environment has responsibility, largely in England, for housing, town and country planning, the protection of the environment, sport and the sponsorship of the water, inland waterways and construction industries. He also has general responsibility for the structure, functions and finance of local government. He is supported by a team of Ministers, each responsible for specific areas of policy.

This Report outlines Ministerial objectives and available resources. It attempts to evaluate the extent to which those objectives were achieved in the financial year 1982/83. (The Property Services Agency, which is a semi-autonomous unit within the Department, produces its own Annual Report.)



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## Foreword by the Secretary of State

Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP



This is the first time the Department of the Environment has produced an Annual Report. Its aim is to provide a concise summary of our objectives and achievements and an account of the resources used during the financial year 1982/83 – a period which ended before I became Secretary of State.

The Department deals with issues which concern us all – from basic needs like housing and pure water to the quality of architecture and the need for sport and recreation. Its work affects the social, physical and economic environment, and we have been pursuing objectives aimed at protecting and improving all three.

The Report describes the Department's achievements. We have for example extended the rights of council tenants to own their own homes. We have designated Enterprise Zones to stimulate new industry in depressed areas. We have legislated to set up a new body to promote the public's enjoyment of our heritage.

But our activities are only half the picture. We work closely with many other public bodies, like the Sports Council and the Countryside Commission, and with local authorities who share responsibilities with us. We attach great importance to cooperation with the private sector – for example in tackling the economic and physical regeneration of inner cities.

We shall continue on the path we started. We aim to extend home ownership, to reduce the burden of rates and taxes, to promote freedom of choice and to encourage individuals to join in improving our environment and conserving our heritage.

The Report describes a busy year. I pay tribute to the Ministers concerned, and to the Permanent Secretary and his staff for their work.

I hope the Report properly reflects their efforts.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Patrick Jenkin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.



Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP  
Secretary of State until January 1983

Rt Hon Tom King MP  
Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services  
until January 1983  
Secretary of State from January 1983

John Stanley MP  
Minister for Housing and Construction

Lord Bellwin  
Parliamentary Secretary until January 1983  
Minister for Local Government from January 1983  
Principal Spokesman in the House of Lords

Neil Macfarlane MP  
Parliamentary Secretary

Giles Shaw MP  
Parliamentary Secretary

Sir George Young MP  
Parliamentary Secretary

The Earl of Avon OBE TD  
Lord in Waiting  
Spokesman in the House of Lords until January 1983

Lord Skelmersdale  
Lord in Waiting  
Spokesman in the House of Lords since January 1983

## Introduction

The Secretary of State for the Environment is responsible, under statute, for a wide range of functions which affect the social, physical and economic environment of people in England. Under him and his Ministerial colleagues, the Department of the Environment performs a role which varies considerably, depending largely on the degree to which policy objectives are achieved directly by the Department or indirectly through other statutory or non-statutory bodies.

Thus, during 1982/83 the Secretary of State had responsibility for distributing some £9,000 million in Rate Support Grant and some £500 million in housing subsidies to English local authorities. He also controls the levels of their capital expenditure. Yet responsibility for the level of expenditure on any particular local authority activity rests with individual authorities. The Secretary of State is thus answerable to Parliament for ensuring that the correct amounts are accurately distributed to them, but is not answerable for how those amounts are spent.

There is a similar relationship with the water industry. The English Regional Water Authorities, whose capital and revenue expenditure totals some £2,600 million, levy their own charges on users to meet their current expenditure and the financing charges arising from their capital expenditure. However, the Department lays down the statutory framework for the industry, sets its financial targets, and controls its external borrowing.

The Department also sponsors several public bodies, including the New Town and Urban Development Corporations, the Housing Corporation, the Nature Conservancy Council, the Countryside Commission and the Sports Council, in so far as they operate in England. Here it sets the context of national policy, provides some or all of the money and controls investment or borrowing.



# Department of the Environment

## Public expenditure responsibilities 1982/83

£ billion, cash	Gross expenditure	Public expenditure (a)	DOE contribution to finance (b)	Net external borrowing approved by DOE
<b>Local Government Expenditure</b>				
1 Current	29.0	21.7	} 10.8	-
2 Of which spending on DOE functions	9.0	3.3		
3 Capital	4.9	2.0		
4 Of which spending on DOE functions	3.4	1.3		
<b>Water Authorities England</b>				
5 Current	1.9	} 0.3	0.02	0.3
6 Capital	0.7			
<b>Other bodies sponsored by DOE</b>				
Development Agencies (c)				
7 Current	0.6	0.2	} 0.7	0.3
8 Capital	1.0	0.7		
Environmental and Recreational agencies (d)				
9 Current	0.09	0.07	} 0.1	-
10 Capital	0.03	0.03		
<b>Direct Expenditure by DOE (excluding PSA)</b>				
11 Administration, Research, Royal Parks and Palaces, The Heritage	0.2	0.2	0.2	-
12 Option Mortgage scheme	0.3	0.3	0.3	-
<b>Total all bodies</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>of which spending on DOE functions (e)</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>6.4</b>		

### Notes

- a Public expenditure is Gross Expenditure less
  - Income from rents, fees, charges etc
  - Receipts from sale of assets (e.g. land, houses) and use of reserves.
  - In the case of local authority expenditure, interest charges
- b Grants and direct expenditure voted by Parliament
- c New Towns (England), Housing Corporation, Urban Development Corporations, Development Commission
- d Countryside Commission, Nature Conservancy Council, British Waterways Board, Sports Council and certain other smaller bodies
- e The sum of lines 2, 4 and 5-12

Finally, the Department has certain direct executive responsibilities, notably in the maintenance of the Royal Parks and Palaces, and in the care of the ancient monuments and historic buildings in State guardianship.

In parallel with these functions are those concerned with regulatory or control powers. The setting of standards of protection against environmental pollution and the appellate powers of the Secretary of State in land use planning control are the most obvious examples.

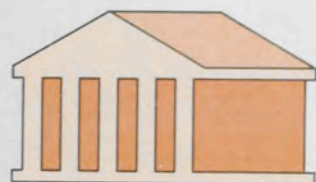
This report is therefore not just about the Department's own work. It refers also to the work of local authorities and other bodies in the public sector, and the extent to which the Secretary of State exercises powers to control or influence their activities.

The table (on page 6) gives an overview of expenditure in 1982/83 by all the main public sector bodies funded by the Department, showing their **total** expenditure (ie including spending on services such as education, which are not the responsibility of the Secretary of State for the Environment) and also expenditure on DOE programmes where this is different.

This Report has separate sections on ten main policy areas. The Finance section (pages 38-45) provides details of the sources of expenditure in each area and how the money was spent. The Financial Statement and Voted Expenditure and Accounts (pages 47-58) summarises the Department's accounts for the year. In due course these will be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General and presented by him to Parliament as the Department's formal Appropriation Accounts. There is a final section on the resources of manpower and money required to run the Department.

Throughout this Report, references to the work and activities of the Department are used as a convenient shorthand for the activities carried out by the 8315 civil servants in post in DOE (excluding the PSA) at 31 March 1983 who work under the overall policy direction and responsibility of the Secretary of State and his Ministers.





## Local Government

### Key objectives

To influence the level of expenditure by local authorities in accordance with the Government's public expenditure plans;

To ensure that central Government's contribution to the funding of local government expenditure takes account of the differing circumstances of individual authorities;

To keep under review the general body of law dealing with the structure and functioning of local government;

To encourage value for money in local authority services.

### Main achievements

The Local Government Finance Act 1982 abolished supplementary rates. It strengthened the disincentives to excessive expenditure by clarifying the powers for setting individual expenditure targets and for withholding grant from authorities which exceeded those targets. It established new arrangements for the audit of local authorities, with greater emphasis on value for money.

£8682 million block grant, the major element of Rate Support Grant, was distributed to over 400 local authorities in one operation.

For the first time, the Secretary of State announced major elements of an RSG Settlement in the summer before the start of the grant year, allowing authorities over six months' notice before setting their rates.

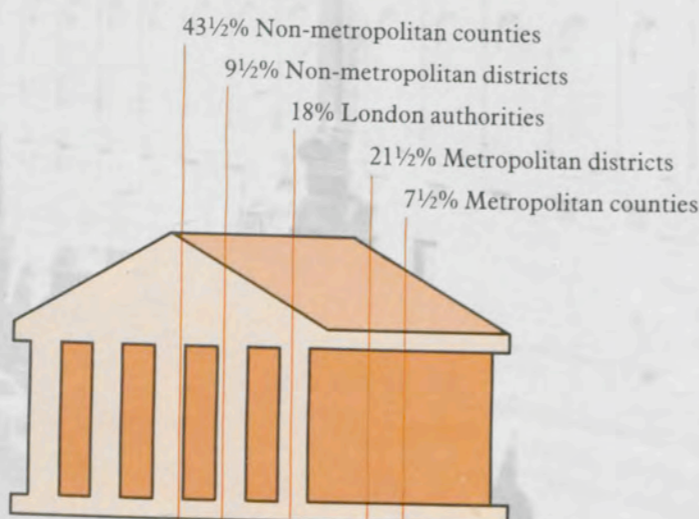
The Department took action to minimise a substantial underspend on local authorities' capital accounts.

The response to the Green Paper "Alternatives to Domestic Rates" was analysed and evidence provided to the Commons Environment Committee.

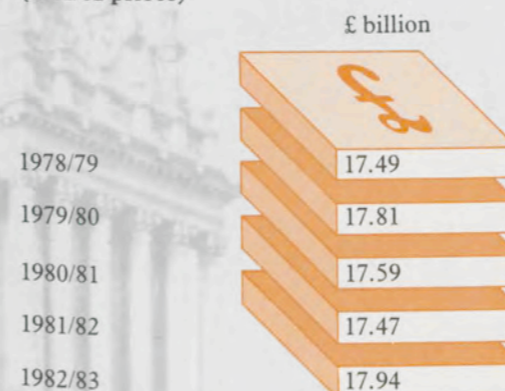
There was a major drive to encourage local authorities to make greater use of contractors in the provision of services.

The new financial and accounting regime for direct labour organisations was refined, and the requirements for competition increased.

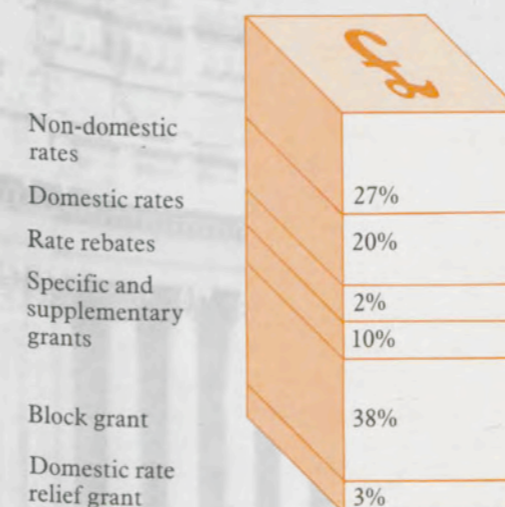
Distribution of Aggregate Exchequer Grant 1982/83



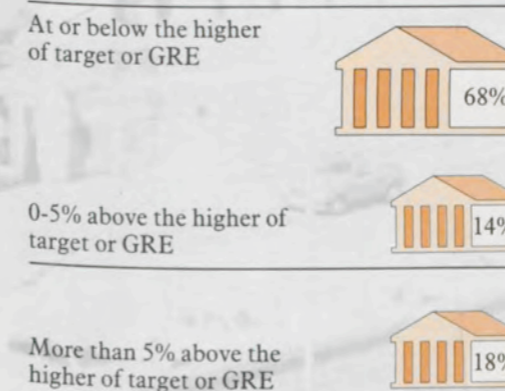
Rate Support Grant net current expenditure (1981/82 prices)



Financing of net expenditure by grants and rates



### Targets



Note The definition of current expenditure for RSG purposes is different to that used in calculating public expenditure by local authorities.

### Rate Support Grant (RSG) and Local Government spending

Local authority spending in the United Kingdom represents some 25% of public expenditure. In 1982/83 the gross expenditure of local authorities in England was of the order of £34 billion.

Throughout the 1960's and 1970's there was a steady growth in local government current spending of about 3½% a year in volume terms (ie adjusted for changes in local authority costs, mainly pay). In 1979 the incoming Government sought to reverse this trend by increasing local authorities' accountability to their electorates.

Block Grant, a new system for distributing RSG, was introduced in the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980. The system discourages higher levels of expenditure by ensuring that a greater proportion of the cost has to be found from the rates. This was reinforced by measures in the Local Government Finance Act 1982. The Act abolished the power to raise supplementary rates during the financial year, and clarified the statutory basis for holding back the block grant from any authority exceeding its expenditure targets. In 1982/83 the Government exempted from grant holdback authorities spending below the Government's assessment of what they needed to provide a standard level of service (their Grant Related Expenditure (GRE) Assessment).

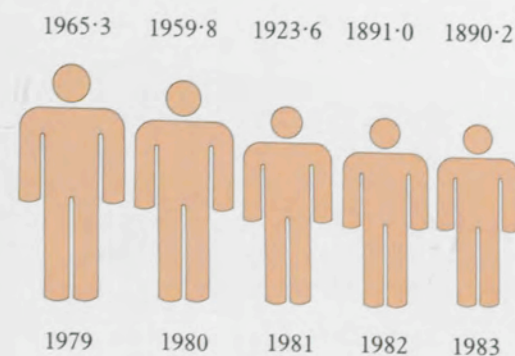
The Government also reduced the percentage of local government spending funded by central government to sharpen the accountability of local authorities to their ratepayers. The 1982/83 RSG settlement provided for a reduction in the grant percentage from 59.1% of planned local government spending to 56.1%.

Despite the pressure maintained on spending through the operation of the grant system, budget returns from local authorities suggest growth in net current expenditure (spending on pay, goods and services net of income from fees and charges) of about 2½% in volume terms in 1982/83 over 1981/82. This followed a reduction of 2% between 1979/80 and 1981/82.

In 1982/83 RSG net current expenditure was £19.2 billion. This was £1.2 billion above the level allowed for in the 1982/83 RSG settlement. 68% of authorities budgeted to spend below target or GRE. 18% of authorities budgeted to spend more than 5% above the higher of target or GRE. In total, authorities planned to overspend their targets by 7.7%. To finance this higher expenditure, rates rose by 14%.



### Manpower 000's



### Manpower

Manpower costs account for about three quarters of local government net current expenditure. Ministers continued to encourage local authorities to reduce staff and to make careful comparisons with the levels of staffing adopted by comparable authorities. The Department co-operated with local government in monitoring trends (principally through the Joint Manpower Watch). However, during 1982/83 the reduction in local government manpower (which amounted to 4% between June 1979 and March 1982) virtually came to a halt.

### Local Government capital spending

The Department acted to reduce a potentially large capital underspend. Monitoring figures showed that authorities were spending well below the levels allowed for in Government plans. Ministers therefore encouraged authorities to bring forward worthwhile projects, and issued additional capital allocations of over £500 million, on condition that the expenditure occurred during 1982/83. These measures increased gross capital expenditure by over £800 million. Gross spending by authorities was close to the level assumed in the expenditure plans for 1982/83. But local authority net capital expenditure (ie net of capital receipts) was still £870 million less than the cash limit, largely because unexpectedly high receipts, mainly from "right to buy" housing sales, had increased the resources available for capital spending.

To reduce the chances of a net underspend in future years the Government laid before Parliament in March 1983 new regulations on capital controls. These governed the extent to which capital receipts can be used to justify expenditure additional to allocations. The effect was to release additional resources to be included in the basic capital allocations, which authorities have in the past shown themselves readier to spend.



### Rate reform

The Department received over 1,500 comments on the Government's Green Paper, "Alternatives to Domestic Rates", published in December 1981. The Department provided for the Commons Environment Committee an analysis of the response, and other written and oral evidence. The Committee's report on alternatives to rates (HC 217, Session 82/83) was published in September 1982. (The Government's decisions on reform were announced in August 1983 in the White Paper 'Rates', Cmnd 9008.)

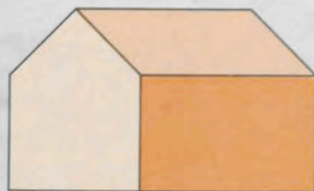
### Value for money

These general measures in respect of local government expenditure and manpower were complemented by specific action to encourage value for money. The Local Government Finance Act 1982 reshaped the arrangements for local government audit and placed more importance on value for money in the audit of local authorities. It established a new independent body, the Audit Commission, to take over (with effect from 1 April 1983) the Secretary of State's former role in supervising local government audit; and it gave the Commission a specific duty to stimulate improvements in the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of local authorities. The Commission's membership was announced in January; it includes local authority members and officers and also senior private sector representatives reflecting the Government's desire to see greater use of the skills of private professional practices in local government audit. The staff of the Commission will include many of those who previously served in the District Audit Service, as well as recruits from the private sector.

Ministers also encouraged greater use of private sector skills and services in other areas. Local authorities were urged to consider contracting out of services such as refuse collection, and to invite private sector companies to tender competitively for their provision. Significant savings were reported – both where authorities accepted contractors' bids and where their in-house costs were reduced in response to competition.

1982/83 was the second year in which local authority direct labour organisations were required to operate within the new framework established by the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980. The first year's Annual Reports, published during the year, provided evidence of improvements in efficiency achieved by many authorities' direct labour organisations in response to the new disciplines imposed by the legislation. New competition regulations provided further stimulus to greater efficiency and accountability.





## Housing

### Key objectives

To maximise the public sector contribution, in partnership with the private sector, towards satisfying the demand for home ownership, while continuing to encourage and provide for a total approach to housing, embracing all sections of the community, on a cost-effective basis.

### Main achievements

Home ownership was vigorously promoted through house sales, low cost home ownership schemes and the introduction of legislation extending the Right To Buy.

Priority within the housing public expenditure programme was given to capital investment.

Fresh initiatives were taken to boost home improvement and repair.

The interests of public sector tenants were pursued through the dissemination of good housing management practices and by the introduction of legislation to strengthen their rights.

Special attention was paid to the housing needs of the elderly, disabled, single and mobile; a review of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977 was completed.

### Promoting home ownership

Over the last 4 years, the proportion of English households owning their homes has grown from 56% to 61%.

In 1982/83 186,100 council and new town tenants and 19,200 housing association tenants bought their homes under the right to buy provisions of the Housing Act 1980 and the related voluntary sales arrangements, by far the highest number of public sector dwellings ever sold in a single year. A Bill was introduced into Parliament to extend the right to buy, both to public sector tenants whose landlord did not own the freehold and to give a right to shared ownership to those who could not afford to buy outright.

Under the Government's low cost home ownership programme, about 17,000 sales were completed in 1982/83, including sales under home-steading, shared ownership and other initiatives to help first time buyers on low incomes.

On Merseyside, a private Trust with Government encouragement, bought a large, difficult-to-let, local authority estate with financial assistance from a building society and a bank. Work is now well under way to achieving this with the aim of creating a mixed community of owners and tenants.

The Department's Regional Offices continued to play an important part in disseminating policy: for example, organising seminars with local authorities and housebuilders on shared ownership and on land availability.

Do-it-yourself shared ownership, introduced in January 1983, generated a great deal of interest. It enables job movers, those on waiting lists and other first time buyers to select properties for purchase on shared ownership terms, through a designated housing association or in concert with local authorities.

A Mobile Homes Bill was introduced in November 1982 to improve the system of agreements between site operators and owners of mobile homes by providing important new rights for 150,000 residents in Great Britain.

### Key facts about the housing programme in England

Housing starts	1982/83	1981/82
Private sector	129,700	104,500
Public sector	45,700	35,900

Public sector capital expenditure		
Local authorities	£2,327m	£1,906m
Housing Corporation	£755m	£521m
New Towns	£81m	£115m
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,163m</b>	<b>£2,555m</b>

Capital receipts		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,831m</b>	<b>£1,045m</b>

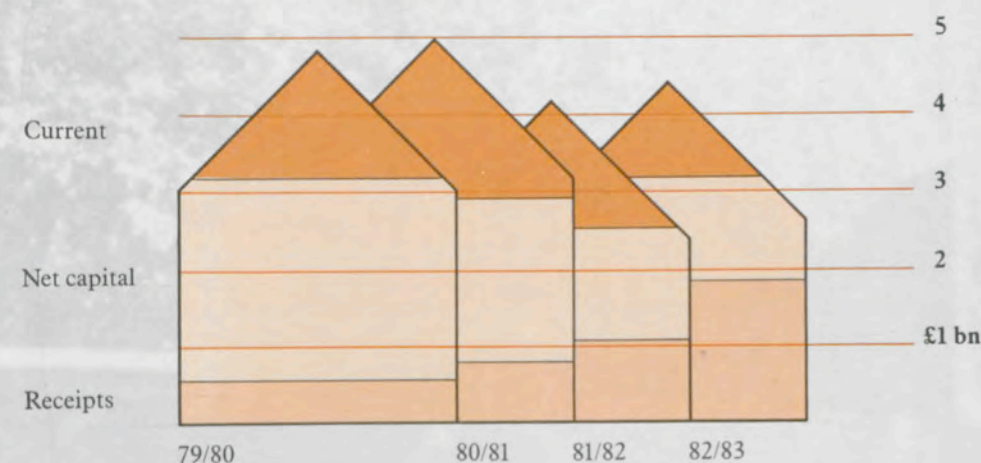
### Capital investment

The output of new housebuilding in England in 1982/83 was valued at £3¾ billion, about three-quarters of which was for the private sector. In the public sector the primary aim continued to be that of containing the level of public expenditure but priority within the housing programme was given to capital spending.

Gross capital expenditure in 1982/83 was £3163 million, 24% above 1981/82. This increase was made possible by the application of receipts resulting from a high level of council house sales and favourable mortgage conditions in the private sector. Many authorities were unable to utilise all the capital receipts arising in the year; the Government accordingly took action in October to reduce the likely capital underspend. Additional capital allocations of £195 million were made for housing investment, including retrospective allocations of £64 million for home improvements to grants.

The year marked a further switch in the balance of the programme from current to capital expenditure with the proportion of local authority housing revenue account spending financed by rent income (averaging £13.58 per council house per week) rising from 62% to 66%.

### Public housing expenditure





## Home improvement and repair

The Government introduced further measures to tackle the problems of unfitness and disrepair. The 1981 English House Condition Survey, which was published on 14 December 1982, showed that since the last survey in 1976 the number of houses lacking standard amenities had been considerably reduced, the level of unfitness had remained about the same and disrepair was increasing.

Grants for repairs and the installation of basic amenities were increased from 75% to 90%, and local authorities were allowed to spend without limit on Home Improvement Grants. Enveloping, a technique for encouraging the improvement of older housing stock by renovation of the external fabric of whole rows of houses at no cost to the owners, was brought within the mainstream housing programme of local authorities. Under the Homes Insulation Scheme a further 369,000 dwellings were insulated: about 12 million, almost 80% of roofs capable of being insulated, have now been treated.

A scheme of financial help was introduced for the private owners of Airey houses formerly in public ownership which were found to have serious defects unforeseen at the time of purchase from the public sector. The scheme assists the owners to repair their homes or to have them repurchased by local authorities.

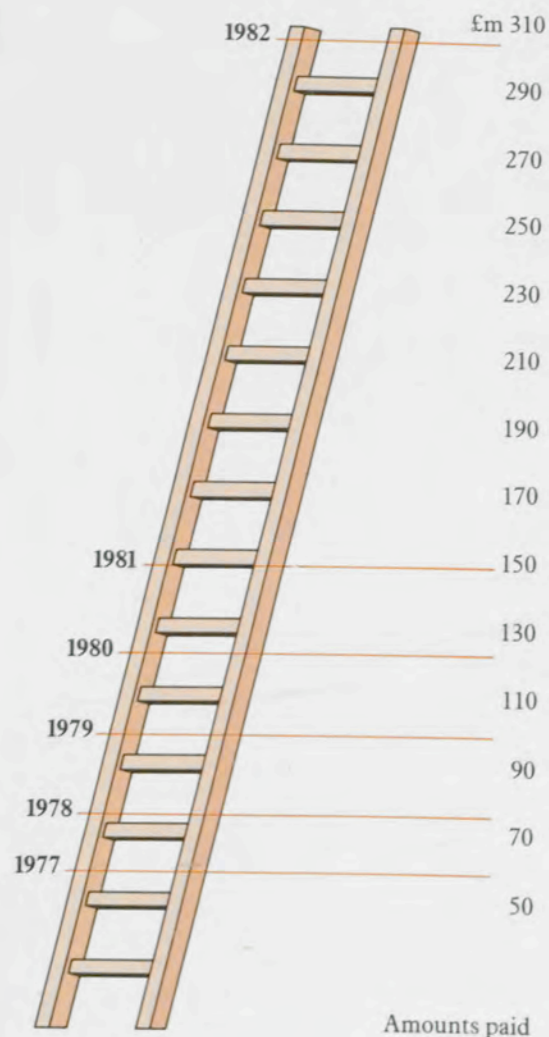
During the year a Working Party drawn from the Department and the Local Authority Associations conducted a review of the statutory powers and subsidy systems associated with the repair and improvement of the housing stock.

## Better management and tenants' rights

The Department has taken an active role in disseminating advice and information about best management practice generally and sponsoring demonstration projects to deal with the problems of run-down council estates. The aim has been to encourage public sector landlords to use the existing stock efficiently and economically and to tackle the acute social and management problems which arise on difficult estates. Advice has covered re-letting procedures, tackling empty dwellings, reducing rent arrears, providing physical security in blocks of flats, involving tenants in maintenance and repair of their houses and estate based management.

In particular the Priority Estates Project has focused on estates in Bolton, Lambeth and Hackney with related initiatives in the form of Community Refurbishment Schemes on Merseyside in conjunction with the Manpower Services Commission. A film 'Tackling Priority Estates' has been shown to representatives of over 300 authorities at 50 seminars throughout the country.

Improvement and repairs grants paid 1977-1982



Enveloping, the exterior renovation of whole rows of houses

The Government's wish to strengthen further the rights of public sector tenants was evidenced by the introduction of provisions in the Housing and Building Control Bill to give tenants a right to repair their homes and to obtain information about the basis of communal or district heating charges.

## The needs of those with special housing requirements

Provision for those with special housing needs continued to command a high priority.

Public sector construction starts on dwellings for the elderly and disabled rose by nearly 30% over the previous year. Local authorities carried out 30% more adaptations to housing occupied by disabled people than in the previous year; and grants for adaptations to privately-owned dwellings occupied by disabled people were more than doubled in number and tripled in value.

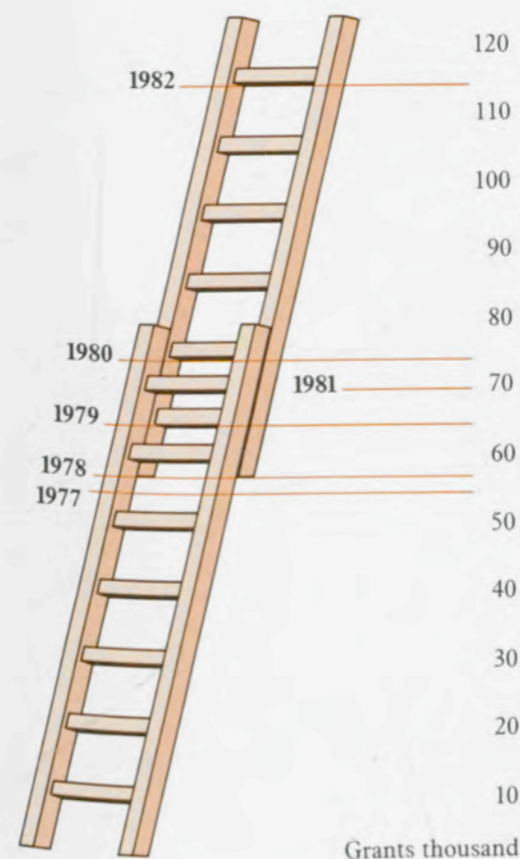
The momentum of the hostels initiative, launched by the Government, was maintained and the Housing Corporation approved projects for 3,373 bedspaces in hostels and other shared housing. Two major research reports were published - 'Organising House Adaptations for Disabled People' and 'Housing Initiatives for Single People of Working Age.' A film on 'Housing for the Elderly' was prepared and will be released shortly.

Increasing numbers of private builders have entered the market for small, easy to manage houses for elderly owner-occupiers who wish to move from their existing, less suitable accommodation. A variety of sheltered and non-sheltered dwellings have been provided, in many cases through building mixed-tenure schemes in partnership with local authorities or by building under licence on local authority land.

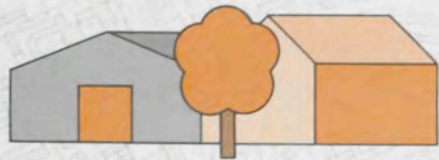
The Government's review of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977 was completed and consultations on amendments to the Code of Guidance were set in train. Grants totalling nearly £1/3 million were given to voluntary organisations concerned with homelessness.

The Department launched the Government-financed Tenants Exchange Scheme on 1 April 1982. It is a computerised information service to help public sector tenants find possible exchange partners in other councils' areas. At the end of the year there were over 52,000 registrations.

The Department continued to fund the central running costs of the National Mobility Scheme - a voluntary arrangement between public sector housing authorities to help people with a pressing need to move to a different council's area for job or social reasons. During 1982/83 there were 6,235 moves under the scheme outside London (over 80% more than in its first year); about two-thirds of them were for social reasons - enabling, for example, elderly and handicapped people to receive support from their families.







## Planning

### Key objective

To develop and maintain policies for land-use management promoting efficiency, economy and amenity in the use and development of land, including the reclamation or recycling of derelict, neglected or under-used land, in ways that serve the needs of development and the interests of conservation.

### Main achievements

Improved efficiency in dealing with planning applications and appeals.

68 of the 72 structure plans required to cover England have now been approved.

Revised procedures to speed up the preparation of statutory plans.

16 new or updated housing land availability studies completed.

Publication of all 365 registers of unused or under-used land held by public authorities.

Derelict land expenditure increased substantially. "Operation Groundwork" developed.

New guidelines for planning control over aggregates issued.

Completion of work in new towns costing some £190 million. Bracknell Development Corporation wound up.

European Regional Development Fund: 285 projects approved, worth £87 million in grants.

Local Authority powers to assist industry in Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

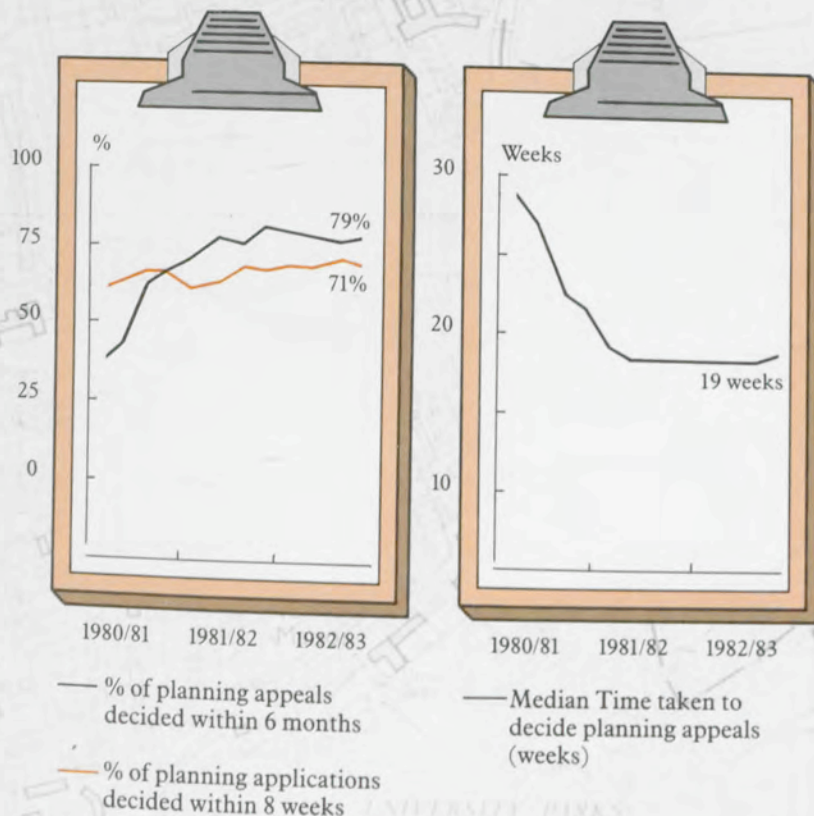
### The planning system

The planning system serves both the need for development and the interests of conservation. The Government has emphasised the need to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the system. Over the past three years there has been a steady improvement by local planning authorities in the time taken to handle planning applications. In the last quarter of 1982, 72% of planning applications were decided within the statutory eight week period – the best performance since the monitoring system began in 1979. 87% of all applications were approved, and of those that came to the Secretary of State on appeal about 30% were allowed. In all, over 90% of development applications got planning approval.

The Planning Inspectorate increased productivity in dealing with planning appeals. The number of cases in hand has been reduced by one third (from 9,163 to 6,121) over the last 3 years. Over the same period the average time taken on appeal decisions has fallen from 29 to 19 weeks.

Structure and local plans provide the necessary framework for development control. To date 68 of the 72 initial structure plans required to cover England have been approved. The average time taken to approve plans has been reduced from 28 months to 23 months.

Development Control Performance England 1980/81 – 1982/83



### Expenditure on derelict land reclamation

1979/80	£22.3 million
1980/81	£30.0 million
1981/82	£29.7 million
1982/83	£59.4 million

### Land for housing

The Government is concerned that shortage of land should not be a constraint on private housebuilding. DOE Circular 9/80 asked local authorities and builders to carry out joint studies of land currently available and to ensure the availability of at least five years' supply at all times. Studies have been completed for twenty seven counties or structure plan areas. Sixteen new or updated studies were completed in 1982/83. The studies generally show a five year supply of land, although there are shortages in some areas. Further work is being done to identify new sites, including neglected or under-used land within urban areas.

### Derelict land

In cash terms the derelict land expenditure in 1982/83 was almost three times that in 1979/80. Priority schemes (Category A) have been introduced to encourage projects where private sector development is intended to follow reclamation: these now account for about one-third of grant aid. "Operation Groundwork," described in the section on Nature and the Countryside, was further developed. A new national survey of derelict land was carried out.

### Land registers

Registers of unused or under-used land in public ownership have been published for all local authority areas in England. These registers include nearly 12,000 sites; about 110,000 acres in total.

The Government will use its statutory powers, if necessary, to bring land register sites back into use. (By July 1983 some 9700 acres had been sold or brought into use.) Work has been started to computerise land register data.

### Minerals planning

The Government continues to place great emphasis on the restoration and after care of old mineral workings. The Town and Country Planning (Minerals) Act 1981 provides new powers for this purpose. Continuing close co-operation between planning authorities and the minerals industry has been developed: the agreed guidelines for aggregates in England and Wales being a good example.



### Research

During the year the Department spent £3.3 million on research in support of its planning and natural resources functions. An increasing proportion of new research projects were let by competitive tender. Important new projects included evaluation of industrial and commercial improvement areas, investigations of limestone workings in the West Midlands and studies of site requirements for major industrial projects.

### Monitoring land use changes

A new method of monitoring land use changes was under development by the Department using Ordnance Survey field surveyors. The longer term potential of satellite imagery for such purposes was also studied.

### New towns

The Government's aim is to round off the development of the new towns, so that they can become self-sufficient communities, and to disengage as quickly as possible from special public sector involvement. In 1982/83 the development corporations completed housing, commercial and industrial and sewerage projects costing £142 million and some further £50 million of roads development. £135 million of this was raised by the sale of some 4,300 completed houses, shops, offices and factories. This underpinned the creation of over 9,000 new houses and 20,000 new jobs. Bracknell Development Corporation was wound up in 1982.

### European regional development fund

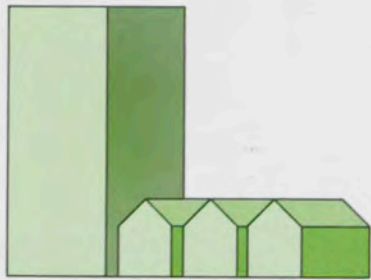
The Department continued to put forward infrastructure projects for grant aid from the European Community's Regional Fund. This fund, set up to redress regional imbalance within the community, has been steadily growing in recent years. Its receipts have brought considerable benefits to the UK's Assisted Areas. During 1982, 285 projects were approved, a record number, worth some £87 million in grant. Among the successful applications was the National Museum of Photograph, Film and Television in Bradford, which received a grant because of its tourist potential.



Astmoor Industrial Estate, Runcorn.

Photo: Warrington Runcorn Development Corporation/ John Mills





## Inner cities

### Key objective

To develop policies and measures for tackling the economic, social and environmental problems of inner city areas, so as to improve living conditions and job opportunities.

### Main achievements

Substantial increase in Urban Programme resources to improve conditions in inner city areas.

Urban Development Grants; the first 57 projects approved.

Increased private sector interest and investment in inner cities.

More local enterprise agencies.

Eight new districts designated "programme authorities" to concert local effort.

Nine new Enterprise Zones announced in England; many jobs provided in the existing zones.

Development of Merseyside Task Force concept.

Full operation of the two Urban Development Corporations.

Completion of Financial Institutions Group Studies.

Greater emphasis on voluntary sector and the needs of ethnic communities.

Written and oral evidence given to the Select Committee on the Environment.

Reports on inner city research and census information published.

### Urban programme

Inner city policy aims to promote the revival of these areas by encouraging greater opportunity for those who live there and by using limited public funds to stimulate much larger investment by private enterprise. Over the past four years the Government has greatly increased the resources available for the Urban Programme. In 1982/83 the provision was £270 million and additional allocations were made in the course of the year, so that the final outturn was some £300 million. (Of this, £214 million fell on the Department's public expenditure programmes.)

In 1982/83 over half the resources went to the seven "partnership areas." About a quarter went to 15 "programme" authorities. The balance went to a further 14 designated districts and on the Traditional Urban Programme (supporting social projects in other urban authorities). A 48% increase in Traditional Urban Programme applications was processed within the target timetable. Urban Programme support for voluntary sector projects increased from £36 million in 1981/82 to £51 million in 1982/83.

### Private sector partnership

Urban Development Grants were introduced in 1982 to enlist private resources in the regeneration of inner city areas. 57 projects were approved in 1982/3, all involving private sector partnership. An estimated £16 million of public sector investment in these schemes, will lead to additional private sector investment of £66 million, a gearing ratio of 1:4.

Tax provisions in the 1982 Budget stimulated the continuing growth of Local Enterprise Agencies. Business in the Community – which was set up by a number of private sector firms in 1981 – continued to promote these Agencies. Inner City Enterprise plc is a new public company set up on the initiative of the Financial Institutions Group to seek out property development opportunities in inner city areas likely to attract investors and benefit the community. The Department has been actively involved in all these initiatives.

A review of urban programme authorities resulted in the designation of eight new "programme" authorities and three other districts. Existing partnership and programme areas continue, with increased emphasis on economic regeneration.

Michael Heseltine watches as Sir John Page (right) Chairman of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, hands over the keys of Albert Dock to Leslie Page, Chairman of the Merseyside Urban Development Corporation.



Photo: Liverpool Daily Post and Echo

### Distribution of resources for 1982/83

Partnerships	51%
Programme Authorities	25%
Other designated Districts	3.4%
Traditional Urban Programme	20.6%

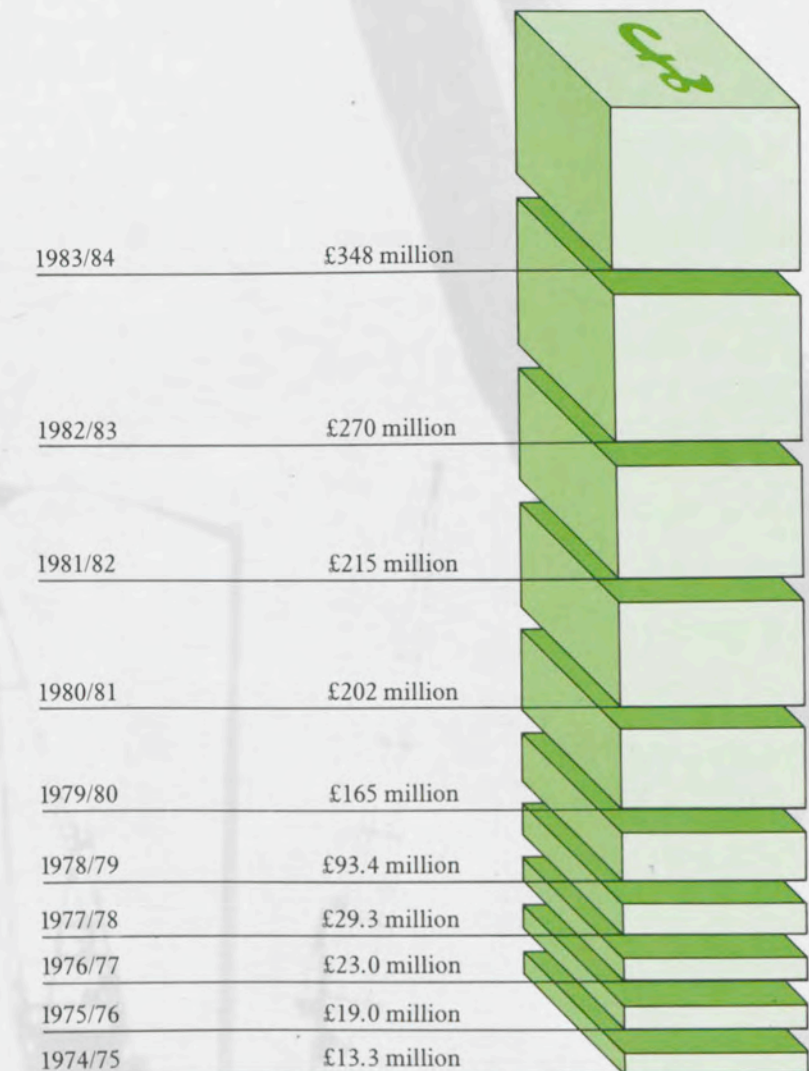
### Types of project

Environmental	23%
Economic	30%
Social	47%

### Merseyside Task Force

The Merseyside Task Force was set up in October 1981 to help carry forward new initiatives and innovative projects set in train by the Secretary of State after the riots of the summer of that year. The Task Force has concentrated on bringing together public authorities, the private sector, community groups and voluntary activity in promoting the best use of resources in inner city renewal.

### UP Resources 1974-84 (allocations) DOE and other Programmes.





### Enterprise zones

By 31 December 1982 about 4,500 jobs had been provided and about 500 firms had set up business in the existing zones.

In November the Secretary of State announced plans for a further nine zones in England, where fiscal incentives and the relaxation of controls encourage industrial and commercial development. The Department appraised 53 applications from local authorities followed by negotiation of boundaries, planning schemes and promotional arrangements.

### Ethnic issues

Sir George Young has special Ministerial responsibility for ethnic issues. The Department set up a working party with the local authority associations on good practice in the ethnic field; and an increased proportion of the Urban Programme resources were directed towards good schemes benefiting ethnic communities.

### Research

Extra-mural research expenditure on inner cities in 1982/83 amounted to about £230,000. Amongst the wide range of studies supported, often by the Department jointly with other sponsors, were investigations on: the performance of manufacturing industry in cities and small towns; the socio-economic conditions of inner city residents, especially ethnic minorities; the effectiveness of the Urban Programme in meeting the needs of ethnic minorities; and the impact of enterprise zones. A number of reports were published, as were papers describing the census analysis carried out by the Department itself.

### Urban development corporations

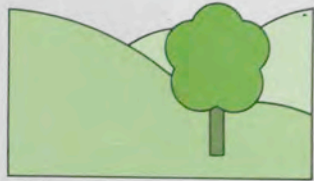
1982/83 saw the first full year's operation of the two Urban Development Corporations – Merseyside Development Corporation and London Docklands Development Corporation – set up in 1981 to secure the regeneration of their designated areas. In 1982/83 the UDCs spent some £62.4 million, of which more than £35 million went on the acquisition and reclamation of land for development, the provision of essential services, and environmental improvement schemes. They now have substantial areas of land which they are preparing for private sector development.



Preparations for Liverpool's 1984 International Garden Festival continued on the site of the former docks. This photograph, taken just after the end of the year, shows the Exhibition Building taking shape.

Photo: Liverpool Daily Post and Echo





## Nature and the countryside

### Key objectives

To protect and enhance the distinctive qualities of the English rural landscape.

To conserve the wildlife and historic features in it.

To foster the countryside as a good place in which to live, work, and to visit.

### Main achievements

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 was brought fully into effect.

The funds for the Countryside Commission and the Nature Conservancy Council were increased.

Small firms were helped to set up new businesses in rural areas through the Development Commission.

Positive measures were taken to encourage the voluntary approach to countryside conservation and to improve the environment in run-down urban fringes.

The United Kingdom continued to play a leading part in international conservation; trade in baby harp and hooded seal skins was halted.

### Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

The most important development was the implementation of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Although many provisions took effect in November 1981, others required a good deal of preparatory work, and the Act became fully effective on 28 February 1983.

The Department was involved in preparing a code of guidance covering the relationship between the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) and the owners and occupiers of land which is of special scientific interest. The Code was drafted in consultation with conservation and agricultural interests and received Parliamentary approval in October 1982.

Three threatened areas of outstanding importance for nature conservation were given extra protection by orders made under Section 29 of the Act, which came into force on 6 September 1982. (They were Baddesley Common, Hampshire, Sandford Heath, Dorset, and Tealham and Tadham Moor, Somerset.) These orders require potentially harmful operations to be delayed whilst the NCC seeks agreement with the owners on ways of preventing damage.

Guidance notes were also produced for water authorities, who are required by the Act to further the interests of conservation. Again, extensive consultations with other government departments, the NCC and the Countryside Commission were needed before these notes were published in November 1982.

The final parts of the Act to be implemented included the provisions about farm improvement grants in cases where the NCC or a National Park Authority has objected. If, as a result, agricultural grant is refused, the NCC or National Park Authority must seek an agreement with the applicant so that the land can be managed in a way which will conserve its living resources and natural beauty.

These were the most publicised provisions of the new legislation. But the Act provided many other things, including a whole series of measures to improve the protection given to animals (like otters) and birds. The Department has recruited a panel of voluntary part-time bird inspectors to assist in registration and enforcement work.

### The Countryside Commission and the Nature Conservancy Council

On 1 April 1982, under the same Act, the Countryside Commission became a grant-in-aid body like the NCC, employing its own staff. The Government has increased the funds available to both Agencies over the past four years, from £8.0 million in 1979/80 to £11.4 million in the case of the NCC and from £6.8 million to £11.2 million in the case of the Countryside Commission, a combined increase of 53%.

Photo: Operation Groundwork



Blundell's Wood, St. Helens, in August 1982



and in August 1983 after Operation Groundwork had improved the site.

### Small businesses in rural areas

The Department continued to provide finance enabling the Development Commission to build advance factories for letting or sale in the rural areas particularly needing the stimulus of new employment opportunities. 134 factories were completed and 168 were let during the year. In total 662 units have been completed, 155 are under construction and a further 413 are at the planning stage, bringing the total approved programme to 3 million sq ft.

Technical marketing and financial management advice was given to 3,500 more firms by the Commission's principal agent, the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (COSIRA), bringing to 15,000 the number of firms on their books. During the year COSIRA also offered loans totalling £4.6 million towards 308 projects worth £13 million. These projects were expected to create about 1,200 new jobs.

### The voluntary approach

Operation Groundwork is an example of the voluntary approach to protecting our living heritage. It was pioneered at St Helens and Knowsley by the Countryside Commission. The objective is to explore new ways of tackling blighted countryside in the urban fringe – for example by restoring land to farming use, creating new opportunities for recreation and removing eyesores. A charitable trust was formed to stimulate and co-ordinate environment improvement schemes, drawing on all sections of the community and using Government grants, Manpower Service Commission schemes, voluntary effort and contributions from sponsors. The scheme is to be extended to five other areas in North West England.

### International conservation

The Department continued to play an active role internationally, particularly in the Council of Europe and the European Community. There were three important advances:

The Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, which provides new protection for a number of UK species, was brought into force in the UK through the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

The European Community adopted a Regulation to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which will be applied collectively in the Community from January 1984.

The European Council of Environment Ministers agreed a Directive on conservation grounds to ban the import of harp and hooded seal pup products for two years from October 1983, unless further studies and discussions with the countries, who trade in seals, make the Directive unnecessary. These efforts – together with an earlier voluntary ban – have already produced results: seal-pup culls are expected to be minimal in 1983.





## Environmental protection

### Key objectives

To prevent damage to the environment and its ecological systems on which man depends.

To improve the quality of the environment and eliminate the scars of past pollution.

To dispose of wastes of all kinds in an acceptable way.

### Main achievements

Introduction of a notification scheme for new chemicals.

Establishment of a Hazardous Waste Inspectorate.

Steady progress in reducing man's exposure to lead from all sources.

A major review of asbestos in the environment.

A major review of radioactive waste management policy.

A 25% increase in the UK contribution to the United Nations Environment Programme.

### Chemicals notification scheme

This scheme, which was established in November 1982 under a European Community Directive, aims to ensure that the potential of new chemical substances to cause harm to man, or to the environment, is properly assessed before they are placed on the market. Manufacturers are required to inform the Department (or its counterparts in other EC countries) about the properties of substances which they propose to market. The Department subjects their statements to expert scrutiny. A guide to the regulations was published by the Health and Safety Executive (HS(R) 14) in September 1982.

### Waste disposal

A new Hazardous Waste Inspectorate was established to help local authorities (who are responsible for waste collection and disposal) to deal with particularly troublesome materials. In addition, substantial research was carried out on the reclamation of useful materials, particularly fuel, from refuse. The Department contributed substantially to the building of two full-scale plants which are now operating. The Department also encouraged economical recycling schemes, especially bottle banks.

The Department also gave advice on the choice and management of waste disposal sites, so that water is not polluted and smell and other nuisances are kept to a minimum. Work was carried out on methods of restoring former waste disposal sites so that they can be put to productive use. A quarterly Waste Management Bulletin was launched in December 1982, as a source of advice on good waste disposal practices.

Photo: Tyne and Wear County Council



Byker reclamation plant, a British system for recovering fuel from household waste.

## NOW ALL BOTTLES CAN HAVE 9 LIVES



Child's poster for national advertising

This poster by Vanessa Scott (14) from the Royal Naval School, Haslemere, Surrey, won first prize in the 1982 Children's National Bottle Bank Poster Competition.

### Lead in the environment

The Department continued to support the world's largest-ever programme of research into the effect of low-level exposure to lead on children's health. It issued guidance to local authorities on dealing with local sources of lead (DOE Circular 22/82). The risks from lead in water, food and air were evaluated and advances made in securing the replacement of lead plumbing, lead solders in food cans, lead paints and lead fishing weights. The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution decided to prepare a report on lead in the environment. (Following publication of this in April 1983, the Secretary of State announced the Government's intention to remove lead from petrol as soon as practicable.)

### Asbestos

Policy on asbestos was reviewed and several possible measures to reduce public exposure were identified. Guidance on asbestos materials in houses and buildings is to be published shortly.

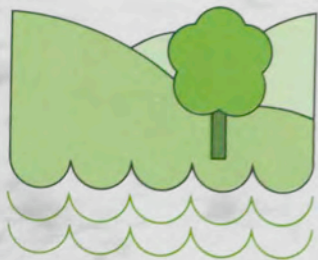
### Radioactive waste management

A White Paper (Cmnd 8607) was published in July 1982 setting out policies on radioactive waste management. It endorsed the establishment by the nuclear and electricity industries of a Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive for the development of new and improved facilities for the disposal of low and intermediate level wastes.

### UK contribution to the United Nations environment programme

The Government's decision to increase significantly the UK contribution to UNEP (now £750,000) is an indication of its commitment to international environment protection programmes, and recognition that many pollution problems cannot be resolved by disparate national domestic policies. "Acid Rain" and the protection of the sea are examples of problems which need co-ordinated international action, in which the Department was closely involved.





## Water services

### Key objective

To sustain water undertakings in providing a high standard of water services, including the control of pollution, and to encourage them to improve their efficiency.

### Main achievements

The industry generally maintained the quality and adequacy of water supplies, even during a 4½ week strike of manual workers.

The Water Bill was introduced to reform the structure of the industry.

Objectives were agreed with the nine English regional water authorities.

'Performance Aims' were agreed for reductions in authorities' real operating costs. Financial targets were set and the average increase in main charges was held to 5%. Capital investment by the authorities was £625 million and is planned to increase, with greater emphasis on renewal of old assets.

A four year programme was begun to implement Part II of the Control of Pollution Act 1974. The North-West Water Authority was encouraged to accelerate its plans to clean up the Mersey.

### Water services

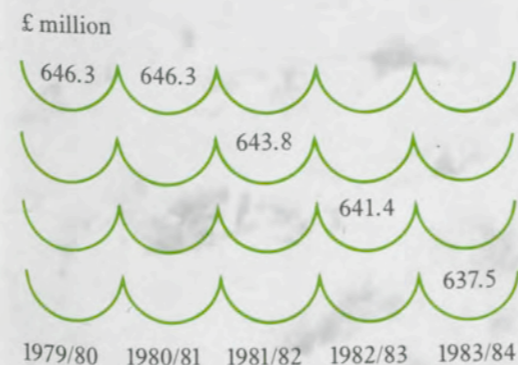
Water services are provided by nine English regional water authorities, and by water companies which supply about a quarter of the population. Generally high standards are maintained in providing wholesome and sufficient water supplies, in dealing with sewage and keeping rivers and streams free of pollution. There are areas where levels of service are too low, notably in the North of England, and progress was made in remedying this. During the 4½ week strike of manual workers in early 1983 services were very largely maintained by the efforts of managers and supervisors; there were no reports of water-borne disease but 8 million consumers were advised to boil water as a precaution. Only one in 200 households was denied supplies at the tap and no serious pollution incidents arose.

The quality of rivers and estuaries generally continued to improve; for example in 1982 salmon returned to the River Thames for the first time since about 1830. The Department encouraged the North-West Water Authority, with the local community, to accelerate the clean-up of the badly polluted Mersey Estuary and to prepare long term plans for improvement of the catchment inland. Part II of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 is being implemented in a phased programme extending to 1986; this will improve control powers for both inland and estuarial and coastal waters.

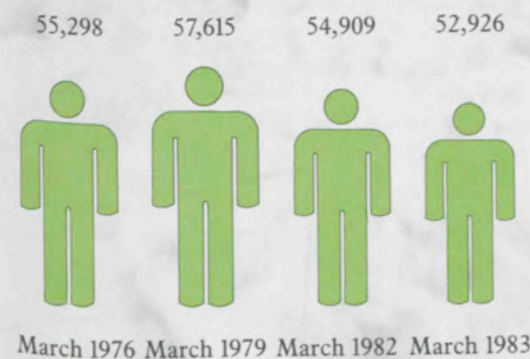


Photo: National Water Council

### Regional Water Authority operating costs 1979/80 prices



### Regional Water Authority manpower



### The structure of the industry

The Water Bill was introduced in November 1982 to improve efficiency, reduce bureaucracy and improve consumer consultation. It provided for

The dissolution of the National Water Council.

The replacement of the large membership of the regional water authorities, on which local authority representatives form a majority, by a small businesslike board like that of other public utilities.

New consumer consultation arrangements.

Improved control of sewerage functions carried out by local authorities on behalf of water authorities.

The last three items reflect recommendations of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The Bill was enacted in May 1983.

### Objectives and finance

Objectives were agreed with the regional water authorities in October 1982. These require them to

Provide acceptable levels of service

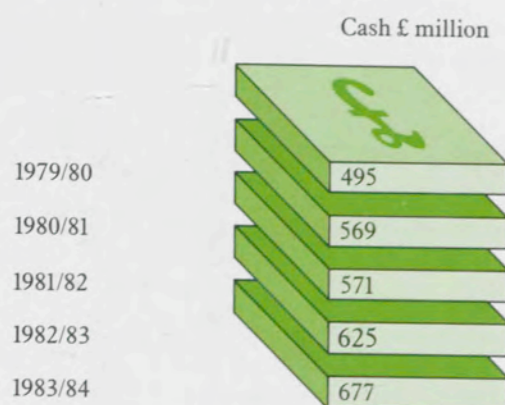
Do so at least cost

Keep within Government financial controls

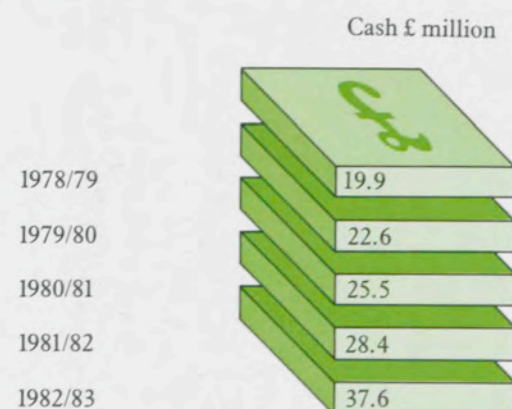
Efficiency must be first and foremost a matter for the authorities' own management, but one of the Government's main aims for the industry has been to reverse the unacceptable increase in costs and manpower that went on until 1979. Performance aims for 1983/84 were agreed for continued reductions in real operating costs despite some increases in demand for services. Authority manpower numbers fell by 3½% during 1982/83.



### Regional Water Authority investment



### Grant to BWB



The water industry is capital intensive – the gross replacement value of water authority assets is over £40 billion – and investment is needed to maintain existing levels of service where these are acceptable and improve them where they are not. External finance limits were introduced as the capital control for authorities in 1982/83. Although this limit was underspent, favourable tender prices meant that authorities very largely achieved their programmes in volume terms by investment of £625 million. This figure is planned to increase to £820 million by 1985/86, in particular to meet the need to replace old and worn out assets.

Water authority charges are affected not only by operating costs but also by the financial target set by the Government for the rate of return on assets. The average increase in main charges for 1983/84 was 5½% – an improvement on previous years.

### Inland waterways

The need continues for care and attention to the 2000 miles of inland waterways controlled by the British Waterways Board, primarily to provide for leisure purposes but also for commercial activity in certain areas. Grant aid to the Board has increased in real terms in recent years; in 1982/3 it was £37.6 million, an increase in real terms of nearly 20% on that in 1978/79.

### Other issues

To increase exports of UK technology and expertise greater co-operation has been encouraged between the private and public sectors of the water industry. Ministers led missions to the Middle East and West Africa. The Water Bill provided powers for water undertakers to work overseas within Ministers' guidelines on the respective roles of public and private sectors.

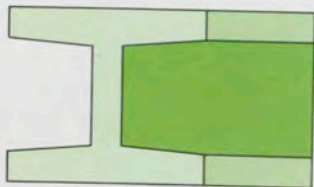
Ministers decided that it was now the appropriate time to implement the Reservoirs Act 1975, which will strengthen the powers and duties on local authorities to ensure that reservoirs are safe.

Local authorities carried out £18 million worth of cost protection work. Government grants towards this totalled £11.5 million.



Photo: British Waterways Board





## The construction industry

### Key objectives

To communicate with the construction industry.

To promote efficiency, innovation and good standards within the industry.

To develop a new system of building control.

### Main achievements

Parts II and III of the Housing and Building Control Bill contained provisions for a new system of building control.

Communications with the industry were maintained through meetings with the Group of Eight, the Building and Civil Engineering Economic Development Committees, and other bodies.

Innovation, use of standards to improve quality, and efficiency were promoted through sponsorship of the British Board of Agrément (formerly the Agrément Board), membership of British Standards Institute Board, Councils and Committees, sponsorship of a £7 million programme of construction research, the "Support for Innovation" scheme, Ministerial visits and publications.

### Building control

Building Regulations ensure that new buildings and alterations to existing ones are safe and do not endanger the people who use them. To meet these objectives without imposing unnecessary restrictions on the design professions and the construction industry, a major review of the Building Regulations was conducted throughout the year. Each regulation was examined from first principles to ensure that it was really necessary, and achieved its objective in the most economical way. Two major consultation papers were published in May 1982 and March 1983, and were widely welcomed. Legislation to permit the introduction of new Regulations, which would be a major advance in the direction of simplicity and clarity, and to introduce a system of private certification as an option to local authority building control, was included in the Housing and Building Control Bill.

By the end of March this had completed its stages in the House of Commons and had begun those in the House of Lords.

### Communications with the industry

Communication between the Government, and a large, fragmented, diverse industry which occupies an important position in the national economy is a major task. Contact is maintained through a host of trade associations and federations, at Ministerial level through the 'Group of Eight' (NFBTE, FCEC, NCBMP, RIBA, RICS, ICE, TGWU and UCATT) and the Building and Civil Engineering Economic Development Committees, and through the Constructional Steelwork Sector Working Party. Following an earlier meeting with the Secretary of State, the Group met the Prime Minister in October 1982, after which she set in hand a major Government effort to reduce capital under-spending by local authorities and nationalised industries.

### Key Facts about the Construction Industry in 1982/83

Output	£23 billion 11% of GDP
Employment	1½ million people
Overseas earnings	£3½ billion

#### Composition

Large civil engineering contractors (say, 20 firms),  
National building contractors (say, 50 firms),  
Local builders (over 50,000),  
Specialist sub-contractors (some 80,000),  
The professions (about 7,000 practices),  
Steelwork fabricators (about 400 firms),  
Building material producers (14,000 firms),  
Distributors (950 firms).



Photo: Northampton Development Corporation

### Innovation and standards

Government grant of £575,000 was given to the British Board of Agrément to support their work in certifying new construction products and processes. The Department (including the Property Services Agency) was represented on the Board of the British Standards Institute, four of its Councils, 30 Standards Committees and about 500 Technical Committees; through these committees the Department's representatives sought to pursue the policies set out in the White Paper "Standards, Quality and International Competitiveness" (July 1982). These policies were also promulgated through Ministerial speeches.

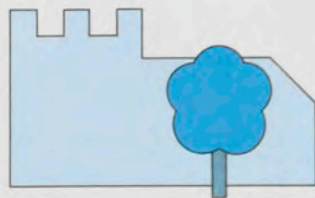
The Department's Construction Industry Directorate took the lead for the UK in negotiations over EEC Commission proposals for harmonised standards for construction products and over proposed Eurocodes for structures.

The Building Research Establishment carried out a substantial programme of research (which will be described in its own annual report), and the Department also supported work in the Research Associations and elsewhere.

The Department continued to handle enquiries and applications under the Department of Industry's "Support for Innovation" scheme of financial assistance. A substantial upsurge in this work was associated with an increase in the maximum rate of grant and an extensive publicity campaign. At 31st March 1983, grant commitments totalled £325,000 and 14 applications were under formal consideration; many more enquiries were received during the year.

Ministerial visits in support of construction exports were made to Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Algeria. A promotional video and booklet on Britain's experience in building new towns was produced. Two guides for inward investors in British building were published, the Department supported an NEDC study into the speed of industrial building in Britain.





## The historic and architectural heritage

### Key objectives

To promote the care and maintenance of monuments and historic buildings in England.

To establish the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission.

To begin the accelerated resurvey to determine which buildings merit being listed as ones of special architectural or historic interest.

To promote architectural and environmental quality in new buildings and renovations.

### Main achievements

The National Heritage Bill was introduced containing measures to set up a new Commission and a Board of Trustees of the Armouries.

The first phase of the accelerated resurvey of buildings was started and additions were made to the list of historic buildings.

Grants worth £11 million were made to help preserve buildings, both those of individual importance and those in conservation areas. Grants totalling £1.3 million were made for the preservation of buildings in town schemes where local authorities contribute as partners.

Grants worth £5 million were made towards over 300 rescue archaeology projects.

About 800 privately-owned monuments were inspected. Advice was given on 400 management agreements and 170 grants, worth £800,000, were made.

4 new exhibitions were installed at monuments.

8 areas were identified as meriting designation under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

317 applications for scheduled monument consent were determined.

Royal Parks continued to be maintained to a high standard, especially those parts most used by the public, despite limited manpower resources and security needs.

The campaign to promote architectural quality was maintained through Ministerial speeches and by encouraging architectural competitions.

### Key statistics for 1982/83

Gross Expenditure	£60.6 million
Income	£9.1 million
Visitors to monuments and buildings in the Secretary of State's care	8,115,000

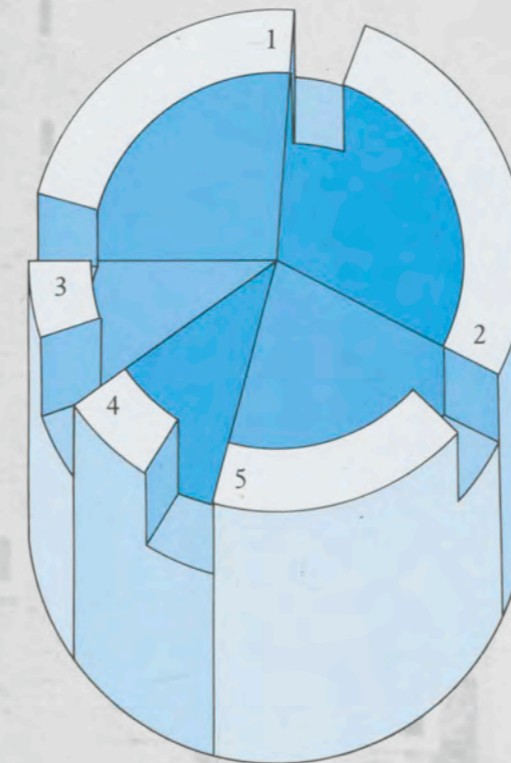
### The new Commission

"The Way Forward" was published in June 1982 setting out the Government's proposals for a new agency for heritage work. In November a bill was introduced to create the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, with responsibility for:-

- i the management and presentation of monuments in the care of the Secretary of State
- ii giving advice and making grants to local authorities, private owners and ecclesiastical authorities in respect of historic buildings and ancient monuments
- iii the co-ordination of rescue archaeology work, and
- iv advising the Secretary of State on the listing, scheduling and taking into care of monuments, and on the merits of applications for Scheduled Monument Consent.

The Commission will have a duty to promote the public's enjoyment of, and advance their knowledge of, ancient monuments and historic buildings in England. It will subsume the work of the Historic Buildings Council and Ancient Monuments Board and provide a focal point for interest in historic buildings and ancient monuments.

### DOE expenditure on the historic heritage 1982/83 (gross)



1 Ancient monuments	£16.2 million
2 Royal parks and palaces	£18.7 million
3 Archaeological grants	£5.5 million
4 National Heritage Memorial Fund and acceptances in lieu of tax	£6.6 million
5 Historic buildings including grants	£13.5 million



### Historic buildings

At present some 290,000 buildings are listed as being of special architectural or historic interest, of which 5,400 are listed as Grade I. An accelerated resurvey of buildings worthy of listing was begun. If work had continued at the existing pace it would have taken over 20 years to complete the resurvey. The aim is to complete it within about three years.

During the year it was announced that a further £1 million would be spent during 1983/84 on grants to historic engineering structures and an additional £2 million for grants for historic buildings in Liverpool.

### Ancient monuments

New procedures were introduced to strengthen financial control and the efficiency of the Department's workforce. These included the development of a planning and controls system for Directly Employed Labour, the production of a Schedule of Rates for the Directorate's works and the introduction of long-term programmes of maintenance. Progress was made to improve the presentation of monuments, to provide better education facilities for children and to improve the commercial operation by extending the range of products on sale.

### Architectural quality in new buildings and renovation

Ministers stimulated public interest in good design in the built environment through speeches and interviews and encouraged potential patrons to play a greater role in achieving high standards. The Secretary of State promoted a major revival of architectural competitions by private developers and public bodies. The Vauxhall Cross competition showed their potential for producing architecturally and economically attractive schemes for important sites. A Special Development Order granting planning permission for the winning scheme was laid before Parliament in June 1982. The Department continued to support architectural quality through policies on planning, housing, inner cities, the conservation of historic buildings and the sponsorship of the construction industry and through its sponsorship of the Royal Fine Art Commission.





### Key objective

To assist and promote, with and through the Sports Council, the development and well-being of sport and recreation, and in particular the improvement of facilities and opportunities for participation at all levels.

### Main achievements

Increased resources for the Sports Council enabled them to expand facilities and participation.

A new Voluntary Agreement with the Tobacco Industry on sports sponsorship.

Following co-ordinating action by his Football Liaison Group to curb violence among football spectators during the World Cup competition, the Minister for Sport obtained the agreement of other Western European Governments to the preparation of rules and guidelines to combat hooliganism in European competitions.

A £ for £ initiative involving private and public sectors was successfully undertaken in Merseyside.

During the year the Minister sought to assist and promote individual sports, and sporting interests in general, through speeches, visits, meetings with the Sports Council, governing bodies and leaders of sport, and attendance at international events.

### The Sports Council

The Sports Council supports governing bodies of sport, runs the National Centres and provides grants and loans for new facilities and programmes. It is grant-aided by the Department; its Chairman and Members are appointed by the Minister. The Council's grant has substantially increased in recent years, reflecting the Government's recognition of the importance of sport and recreation in family and community life. In 1982/83 the grant was £28 million compared with £21 million in 1981/82.

### Voluntary Agreement with Tobacco Industry

In May 1982 the Department successfully completed protracted negotiations with representatives of the Tobacco Industry on a new Voluntary Agreement on sports sponsorship. This Agreement, scheduled to last until at least December 1985, reflects the Government's and the industry's concern to regulate a form of sponsorship which remains controversial but which is nevertheless valuable to sport.

### Football spectator violence

Football has become identified in recent years with crowd violence. To co-ordinate action to combat this problem, the Minister formed a Liaison Group comprising representatives of all the interests involved including the Football Association, the Football League and the Home Office. Before the World Cup in Spain, Departmental officials visited the main centres where British teams were playing, for discussion with the relevant authorities. Encouraged by the success of these discussions, the Minister asked the Liaison Group in the autumn to bring forward fresh guidelines for clubs involved in the major domestic competitions. He also secured the agreement of fellow European Sports Ministers in January to plan concerted action by Western European Governments to combat the problems of spectator violence in European competitions. A working Party (chaired by the UK) was appointed to draft proposals.

### £ for £ initiative in Merseyside

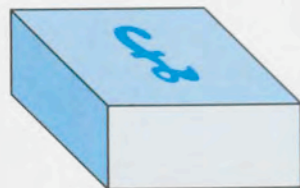
As part of the Department's commitment to resolving inner city problems in Merseyside, a joint public/private sector initiative was launched to raise money for new sport and recreation facilities. The Government agreed to match every pound raised in the private and voluntary sector, up to £1 million; in the event the scheme proved so successful that this 'ceiling' was later raised to £1.25 million. The projects so helped include the provision of an artificial floodlit football pitch in Toxteth, a sports hall adjacent to a factory in Knowsley and major improvements to the Liverpool ice-rink.

Neil Macfarlane and Bobby Charlton at the opening of a new artificial football pitch at Toxteth, Liverpool.



Photo: Press Association





## Finance

Finance for the Department's ten major policy areas, and for the wide range of public bodies involved, flows from a variety of sources. Only a part of this passes through the Department's hands. This section of the Report reviews, briefly, the financial context in which the Department operates.

The table in the Introduction (page 6) gave an overview of total expenditure in 1982/83 by all the main bodies in the public sector funded by the Department, including spending on services, such as education, which are not the responsibility of the Secretary of State for the Environment.

These charts illustrate the components of that expenditure, and the means by which it was financed. The shading in the finance charts shows the proportion of income or funds provided or regulated by the Department. The shading in the expenditure charts indicates expenditure on DOE functions.

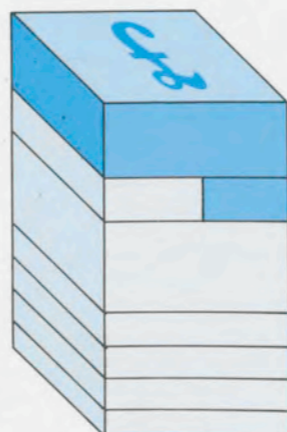
The form, conventions and timing of the accounts and financial returns of these bodies vary with their purpose and statutory positions. For example, local authorities' accounts are partly on a cash basis; figures for many of the agencies are prepared entirely on an accruals basis. Similarly, trading bodies such as the Water Authorities employ the concept of depreciation (which is counted as current expenditure in the charts), whereas local authorities and many other bodies employ alternative accounting conventions for their main accounts. For the Housing Corporation, the chart shows an estimate of the ultimate source of finance (ie capital grant) in order to convey the ultimate means of development finance rather than the initial funding by short term borrowing.

The components of the charts and the table therefore do not fully match and interlock, and the percentages in the charts are accordingly illustrative. But they do give an overall picture of the financing and activities of the public sector bodies in the Department's purview.

### Local authorities

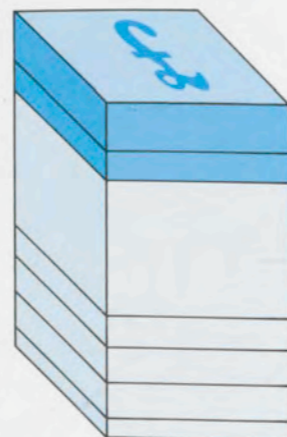
Finance £33.9 bn

Rate Support Grant	27%
Grants to particular services	13%
Rates	31%
Rents	9%
Charges for services	8%
Capital receipts	7%
Net borrowing, interest and other income	5%



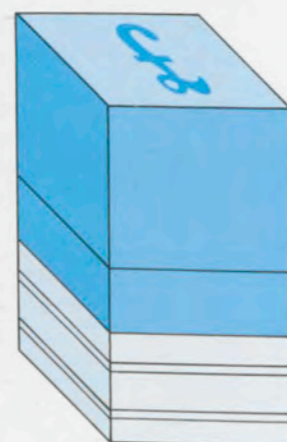
Gross current expenditure £29.0 bn

Housing	18%
Local environmental services	12%
Education	40%
Personal social services	8%
Transport	8%
Law order and protective services	11%
Other current expenditure	3%



Gross capital expenditure £4.9 bn

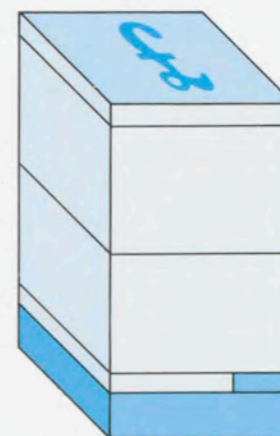
Housing	49%
Local environmental services	20%
Education	9%
Personal social services	2%
Transport	14%
Law, order and protective services	2%
Other capital expenditure	4%



### English regional water authorities

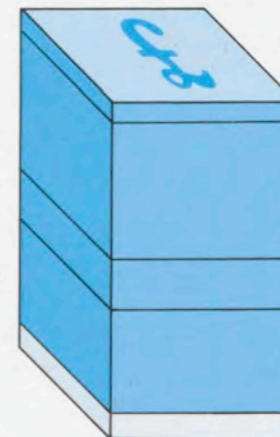
Finance £2.2 bn

Sales of fixed assets and other capital receipts	3%
Domestic charges	42%
Non-domestic charges	42%
Grants	3%
Borrowing	10%



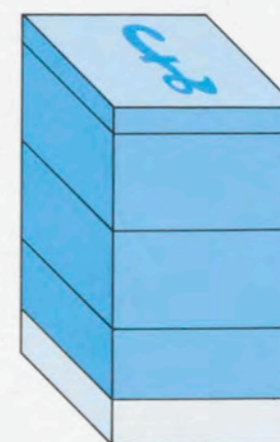
Gross current expenditure £1.9 bn

Water resources	4%
Water supply	44%
Sewerage	14%
Sewage disposal and treatment; environmental services	33%
Land drainage and flood protection	5%



Gross capital expenditure £0.7 bn

Water resources	6%
Water supply	29%
Sewerage	29%
Sewage disposal and treatment; environmental services	24%
Land drainage and flood protection	12%



### Development agencies

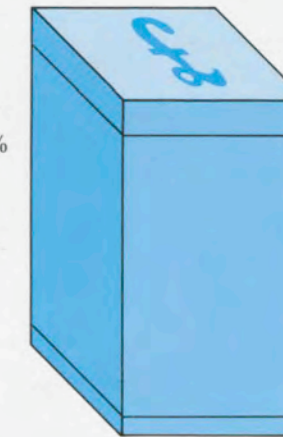
Finance £1.6 bn

Ultimately covered by grants and grant in aid	54%
Income from sales, fees etc	11%
Capital receipts	14%
Borrowing	21%



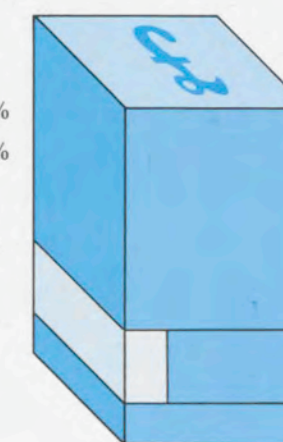
Gross current expenditure £0.6 bn

Housing Corporation	9%
New Towns	88%
Urban Development Corporations and Development Commission	3%



Gross capital expenditure £1.0 bn

Housing Corporation	75%
New Towns	19%
Urban Development Corporations and Development Commission	6%

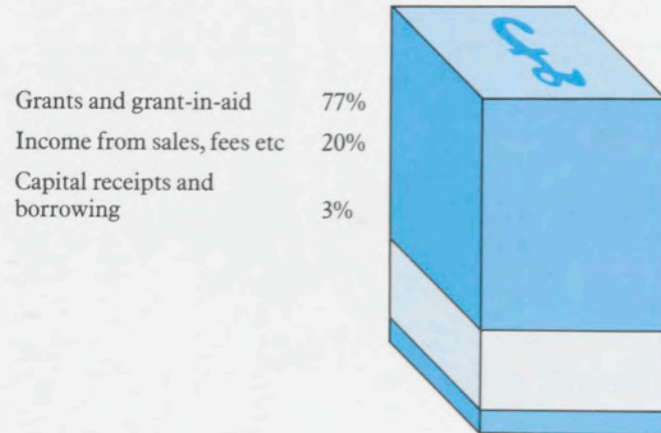


Illustrative figures only - see explanation opposite

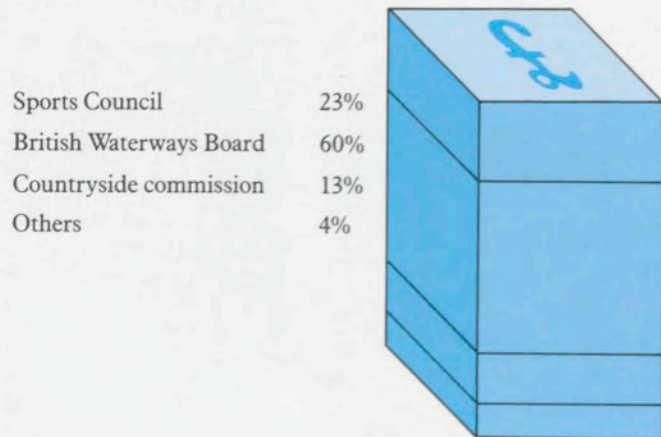


### Environmental and recreational agencies

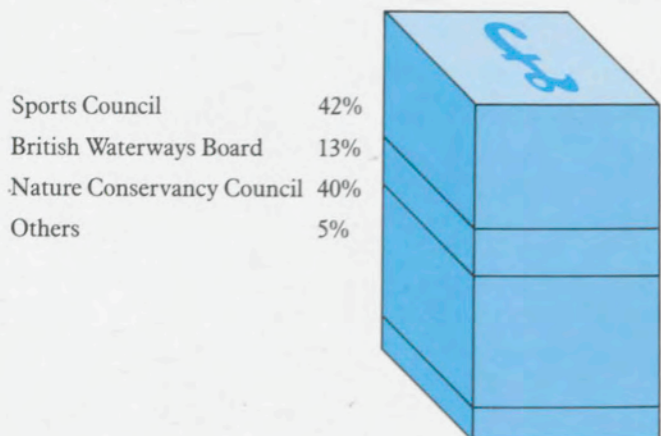
Finance £0.1 bn



Gross current expenditure £0.09 bn

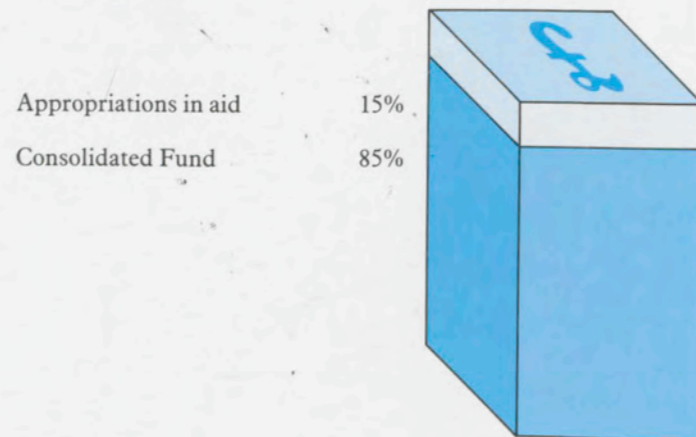


Gross capital expenditure £0.03 bn

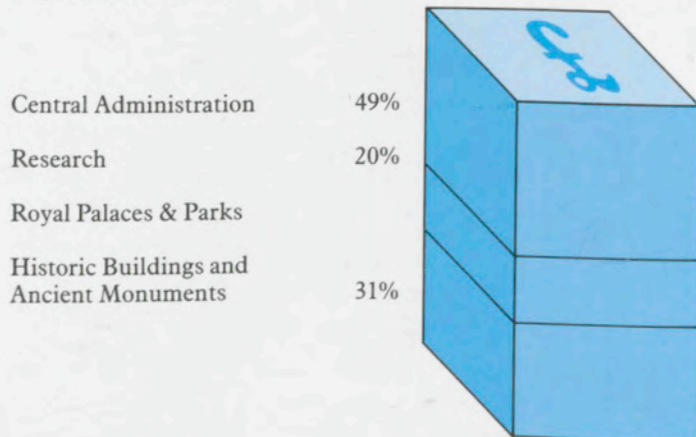


### DOE direct expenditure

Finance £0.2bn



Expenditure £0.2bn



Illustrative figures only – see explanation on page 38

### Public expenditure

For the purposes of planning and regulating the operation of the public sector in the national economy, the Government operates mainly on the total of public expenditure, and its component parts.

Not all the gross expenditure described here counts as public expenditure. Public expenditure is essentially the part of the gross expenditure financed from taxes or rates, or from borrowing. Expenditure which is financed by fees, charges, rents, from sales of assets or from reserves does not count as public expenditure.

The following table summarises the public expenditure on DOE programmes, by spending authority. It gives the planned expenditure figures for 1982/83 (derived from the 1982 Public Expenditure White Paper, "The Government's Expenditure Plans 1982/83 to 1984/85," Cmnd 8494) together with provisional outturn figures to indicate the expenditure achieved. To set the year's expenditure in context, figures for the outturn in 1981/82 and the plan for 1983/84, based on the 1983 White Paper, Cmnd 8789, are also given.



**Public expenditure on  
DOE programmes**  
£ million, cash

		1981/82 Final outturn	1982/83 Planned expenditure	1982/83 Provisional outturn	1983/84 Planned expenditure
<b>Local authorities' expenditure</b>					
1	Housing, excluding New Towns and Housing Corporation				
	Current (a)	1413	1011	1067	754
	Capital				
	Gross	1906	2470	2310	2488
	Receipts	976	1064	1699	1292
	Net	930	1406	611	1196
2	Local Environmental Services				
	Refuse collection and disposal	519		557	
	Town and country planning	221		261	
	Recreation	464		502	
	Other local services	571		656	
	Administration and miscellaneous	118		96	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1893</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>2072</b>	<b>2062</b>
	Local Environmental Services				
	Refuse collection and disposal				
	Capital				
	Gross	61		56	
	Receipts	11		10	
	Net	50		46	
	Town and country planning				
	Gross	128		202	
	Receipts	95		196	
	Net	33		6	
	Recreation				
	Gross	112		114	
	Receipts	8		12	
	Net	104		102	
	Other local services				
	Gross	122		144	
	Receipts	25		36	
	Net	97		108	
	Administration and miscellaneous				
	Gross	130		155	
	Receipts	16		25	
	Net	114		130	
	<b>Net Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>178</b>

£ million, cash

		1981/82 Final outturn	1982/83 Planned expenditure	1982/83 Provisional outturn	1983/84 Planned expenditure
3	Coast protection				
	Capital	16	16	18	19
4	Administration costs of rate collection; registration of births, marriages and deaths				
	Current	140	136	149	140
5	Derelict land reclamation				
	Capital	30	46	59	75
6	Urban Programme: DOE component, including housing and research				
	Current	26	44	48	45
	Capital	85	158	166	218
7	Conservation Area Grants				
	Current (b)	2	3	3	4
<b>Water authorities' (England) expenditure</b>					
8	Regional water authorities (England): External financing limit	212	393	270	341
9	Minor grants and research				
	Current	3	20	4	21
	Capital	12		16	
<b>Sponsored Bodies</b>					
10	Housing Corporation: Programme expenditure, revenue support to Housing Associations and administration costs				
	Current	50	50	54	57
	Net Capital	491	530	680	632
11	New Towns: Housing, industrial and commercial, and sewerage				
	Current	117	119	117	119
	Capital				
	Gross	223	157	142	131
	Receipts	170	98	135	114
	Net	53	59	7	17
12	Urban Development Corporations: (London Docklands and Merseyside)				
	Current	2	3	11	10
	Capital	36	61	51	57



Public expenditure on DOE programmes £ million, cash		1981/82 Final outturn	1982/83 Planned expenditure	1982/83 Provisional outturn	1983/84 Planned expenditure
13 British Waterways Board: External financing limit	Current (b) Capital	29 3	38 2	37 2	40 2
14 Development Commission	Current Capital	7 4	} 21	8 7	} 58
15 Sports Council	Current Capital	12 9		} 28	
16 Countryside Commission	Current Capital	1 2	} (c) 11		
17 Nature Conservancy Council	Current Capital	9 1		} 11	
18 Other environmental bodies	Current	5	5		
<b>Direct Expenditure by DOE</b>					
19 DOE administration including Central Government housing administration and building and environmental research	Current Capital	115 2	} 120	112 2	(d)(e)129
20 Royal Palaces & Parks	Current (b) Capital	14 2		13 3	14 3
21 Historic buildings and ancient monuments; the Heritage	Current (b) Capital	24 2	21 3	26 3	(e)40 3

#### Notes

- a Excludes £300m provision for the Option Mortgage Scheme, which was subsumed in Mortgage Interest Relief at Source (MIRAS) as from 1 April 1983. The public expenditure resources involved were transferred to Inland Revenue. Current expenditure on Housing covers deficit support for housing revenue accounts and costs of administering other housing activities.
- b Includes building maintenance.
- c Increase on 1981/82 reflects the Commission's change to Grant-in-Aid status, which had the technical effect of bringing some additional components of Commission expenditure within the ambit of public expenditure programmes.
- d Includes almost £36 million for payments to the Property Services Agency (PSA) for accommodation services. In earlier years these were provided by PSA without direct charge to individual Departments.
- e Administration and research relating to Royal Parks, Historic Buildings, etc. included in "DOE Administration" for 1981/82 and 1982/83, and transferred to respective programmes (items 20 and 21) for 1983/84.

#### 1982/83 Outturn

The outturn figures show a number of major diversions from the plan.

There was a substantial net underspend on local authority capital programmes generally during the year, due mainly to capital receipts (particularly council house receipts) coming in faster than expected.

The prospective underspend was foreseen in the course of the year and measures were taken in the autumn of 1982 to encourage local authorities to increase their capital expenditure. Additional resources were given for housing improvement grants, derelict land reclamation and other purposes. Additional resources were also given to the Housing Corporation, the Sports Council, the Nature Conservancy Council and the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

These measures were successful in stimulating extra capital investment on both Housing (items 1 and 10 of the table) and Local Environmental Services (item 2); but as the table shows, the scale of the extra receipts on Local Authority Housing (item 1) left a substantial net underspend there.

The overspend by local authorities on current expenditure on Local Environmental Services (item 2) and the administrative costs of rate collection and the registration services (item 4) was part of the general overspending on services by local authorities. The originally announced total of Rate Support Grant was reduced during the year in response to the overspending, by withholding some or all grant to overspending authorities.

The shortfall on the Water Authorities External Financing Limit expenditure (item 8), which covers the difference between water charges and other income and total expenditure, mainly reflects lower than anticipated costs, including construction and tender prices, interest rates and operating costs. Gross capital investment was only marginally below plan.



Financial statement



### Voted expenditure and accounts

This section of the Report gives an account of the Department's financial transactions in relation to the monies which are 'voted' annually by Parliament to enable the Department to meet its own expenditure and provide grants and subsidies to local authorities and other bodies.

Estimates of requirements for the next financial year, known as 'Supply Estimates', are prepared each autumn and submitted to Parliament, normally on Budget day. Revised or Supplementary Estimates may be submitted during the course of the year to provide for expenditure not anticipated in the main Supply Estimates. Once voted by Parliament, funds are released to the Department in instalments throughout the year, and actual expenditure is monitored against allocation.

The relationship of voted expenditure to public expenditure varies from programme to programme. In some cases (for example, maintenance of Royal Parks and Palaces), the two terms are virtually synonymous. In other cases they are quite distinct. For example, for housing improvement grants, public expenditure is defined as the total amount of grant paid by local authorities to the private sector. But authorities finance their expenditure by borrowing, and receive through the Department an annual contribution towards the loan charges for 20 years, and it is this Exchequer contribution which appears in the vote. The amount in the vote therefore represents central Government support towards public expenditure incurred by local authorities over the previous 20 years.

Voted expenditure is described by Class and Vote titles. Classes correspond to the main programmes in the Public Expenditure Survey, and are sub-divided first into votes, which cover the main categories of Departmental expenditure; and further into Vote Sections. The Department receives the single large vote in Class VII (Housing) and all the votes in Class VIII (Other Environmental Services); also a number of votes in class XVIII (Rate Support Grant, Financial Transactions, etc.).

### The tables

The first table, on page 51, gives a summary of all the Department's votes, and the notes on page 53 explain briefly how expenditure on the main elements has changed over the last two years, and how it supports the objectives and achievements described earlier in this report.

The table on page 56 gives a more detailed account of Vote VIII, 5 'Central Administration and Environmental Research' which covers the Department's operating budget. This vote is broken down to the level of individual 'subheads' within sections. Subheads describe the purpose to which money is to be applied. They are used in part to convey authority for expenditure, and also to control 'virement' (the transfer of expenditure) within votes. The figures shown are themselves summaries of more detailed breakdowns which are established within the Department to devolve financial control and accountability to the working level.

The figures in both tables derive from a system of cash accounting, designed primarily to serve the purposes of Parliamentary control of expenditure. Under this system the Department controls both current and capital expenditure by monitoring money spent against the amounts voted by Parliament.

The tables show the amounts spent by the Department in 1981/82, drawn from the year's Appropriation Accounts, the amounts approved by Parliament for 1982/83 in the Supply Estimates (including Revised and Supplementary Estimates), the provisional outturn for the year, and the Estimates (including July 1983 Supplementary Estimates) for 1983/84.

Certain categories of receipts (eg repayments of grant overpaid or from disposal of Exchequer funded assets) have to be surrendered direct to the Exchequer in the form of receipts to the Consolidated Fund, and cannot be credited to the Department's votes. These receipts have therefore been excluded from the tables. Other forms of income (for example admission receipts at Ancient Monuments and Royal Palaces and sale of souvenirs) can be credited to the relevant vote and are used to support gross expenditure. The technical term for this income is 'Appropriations in Aid.' Vote and section totals are shown net of such receipts, but the detailed table for Vote VIII, 5 shows the Appropriation in Aid totals for each vote section.



### Status of the 1982/83 accounts

The statement of accounts for 1982/83 has not yet been audited.

The formal accounts will later this year be submitted by the Department's Accounting Officers (the two Permanent Secretaries) to the Comptroller and Auditor General for audit. Subject to satisfactory audit and certification, he will report them to Parliament in the Annual Appropriation Accounts. The Public Accounts Committee will then review the Accounts, and in particular any issues drawn to its attention by the Comptroller and Auditor General. The information on 1982/83 outturn has not previously been published, and is therefore shown in this report on the basis of unaudited figures.

### Department of the Environment: Voted expenditure

Class and vote £000's Cash	1981/82 Outturn	1982/83 Estimate	1982/83 Provisional Outturn	1983/84 Estimate
<b>VII, 1 – Housing, England</b>				
A Subsidies	1,070,545	769,589	700,368	541,723
B Housing improvements	165,891	210,950	213,404	266,500
C Housing investment	60,134	66,200	64,621	68,800
D Home purchase assistance scheme	3,872	5,000	4,356	6,000
E Housing association grant and grants to the Housing Corporation	485,523	621,050	582,920	769,350
F Rebates and allowances	425,286	531,901	499,526	7,780
G Option mortgage scheme	254,010	310,082	297,602	6,060
<b>Vote total</b>	<b>2,465,261</b>	<b>2,514,772</b>	<b>2,362,797</b>	<b>1,666,213</b>
<b>VIII, 1 – Local Environmental Services, etc, England</b>				
A Other water supply, conservation and sewerage	17,691	16,015	16,013	22,009
B Recreation	6,526	1,400	1,396	1,400
C Other local services	1,915	13,915	12,802	2,568
D Coast protection	8,307	12,000	11,469	15,000
E Assistance to the construction industry	104	10	4	4
<b>Vote total</b>	<b>34,543</b>	<b>43,340</b>	<b>41,684</b>	<b>40,981</b>
<b>VIII, 2 – Central Environmental Services, etc</b>				
A British Waterways Board	28,400	37,596	37,589	40,275
B Derelict land	19	1,000	762	1,500
C Development Fund	9,098	15,340	12,815	19,565
D Other environmental services	38,868	56,420	55,684	56,262
E Civil defence	2	120	30	600
<b>Vote total</b>	<b>76,387</b>	<b>110,476</b>	<b>106,880</b>	<b>118,202</b>
<b>VIII, 3 – Local Planning Services England</b>				
A Town and country planning	4,106	7,900	7,079	6,050
B Other local services	4	15	7	10
C Derelict land reclamation	29,093	38,025	34,498	60,000
D Town and country planning compensation	230	50	5	50
<b>Vote total</b>	<b>33,433</b>	<b>45,990</b>	<b>41,589</b>	<b>66,110</b>



£000's Cash	1981/82 Outturn	1982/83 Estimate	1982/83 Provisional outturn	1983/84 Estimate
<b>VIII, 4 – Royal Palaces, Royal Parks, Historic Buildings, Ancient Monuments and the National Heritage</b>				
A Royal palaces, royal parks	16,460	17,311	17,708	17,926
B Historic buildings	13,581	13,326	13,622	17,518
C Ancient monuments	12,674	14,003	13,589	15,604
D National heritage	2,012	6,500	6,586	1,001
E Administration and research (a)	–	–	–	20,284
F Commission for Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings	–	–	–	300
<b>Vote total</b>	<b>44,727</b>	<b>51,140</b>	<b>51,505</b>	<b>72,633</b>
<b>VIII, 5 – Central Administration and Environmental Research (b)</b>				
	135,400	154,260	142,002	(c) 170,763
<b>VIII, 6 – Urban Programme Grants, England</b>				
	104,004	115,000	112,329	140,000
<b>VIII, 7 – Urban Development Corporations, England</b>				
	37,493	63,494	61,938	66,645
<b>XVIII, 1 – Rate Support Grants to Local Revenues, England</b>				
	9,031,000	9,160,000	8,781,000	9,416,001
<b>XVIII, 3 – National Parks Supplementary Grants, England</b>				
	4,500	5,000	5,000	5,265
<b>XVIII, 6 – Rate Rebate Grants (England) and Additional Rate Support Grants (England &amp; Wales) to Local Revenues</b>				
A Rate support grants	193,534	13,676	1,950	14,458
B Rate rebate grants	303,100	399,501	385,771	112,001
<b>Vote total</b>	<b>496,634</b>	<b>413,177</b>	<b>387,721</b>	<b>126,459</b>
<b>Total of DOE votes, net of receipts</b>	<b>12,463,382</b>	<b>12,676,649</b>	<b>12,094,445</b>	<b>11,889,272</b>

**Notes**

1982/83 figures are unaudited; see note on status of 1982/83 accounts on page 50

Sections are as in the 1983/84 Supply Estimates (which contain figures for the three years 1981/82 to 1983/84).

a Provision for this was within Vote VIII, 5 prior to 1983/84

b Includes Royal Parks etc administration and research in 1981/82 and 1982/83

c Includes almost £36 million for payments to the Property Services Agency (PSA) for accommodation services. Prior to 1 April 1983 these costs were borne on a PSA Vote.

**Class VII, Vote 1: Housing England**

Capital and current expenditure by local authorities and new towns on their own housing is supported by the Exchequer through subsidies (*Section A*) towards the deficits on their housing accounts. As rents of local authority and new town dwellings have increased over the past three years, subsidies have declined, thus releasing more of the total public expenditure resources available for housing to support capital expenditure. Subsidy claims in 1982/83 were less than anticipated, because of a combination of lower than planned capital expenditure and falling interest rates.

The cost to local authorities of giving improvement grants to private individuals is supported by Exchequer contributions (*Section B*). The Exchequer contribution is normally 75% of the cost of the grants, but in order to encourage local authorities to increase their activity in this field during 1981/82 and 1982/83 the Exchequer contribution was increased to 90%. The voted expenditure has therefore increased rapidly over the last three years as improvement grant activity increased, reflecting both this and the enhanced level of support. In 1982/83 claims by local authorities for improvement and repair grant contributions were higher than anticipated. This was partially offset by lower claims for environmental works, home insulation and improvement for sale.

*Section C*, Housing Investment, principally covers the central Government contribution towards the cost of local authority slum clearance programmes; also contributions towards authorities' provision of gypsy sites, and to the repair or repurchase of defective public sector houses bought by tenants.

Expenditure by housing associations is supported by Exchequer grants towards the capital cost of approved projects (*Section E*). The housing associations' share of the total programme has grown in recent years, which has led to a backlog of grant claims. The underspend in 1982/83 was due to slower than expected progress in clearing this backlog.

Up to 1 April 1983 the local authority-administered scheme for giving tenants means-tested rent rebates or rent allowances was a Departmental responsibility, with 90% of the cost being met by Exchequer contributions (*Section F*). From 1 April 1983 this scheme was merged in the new Housing Benefit Scheme for which the Department of Health and Social Security has central Government policy responsibility. The Department's expenditure therefore reduces virtually to nothing from 1983/84 onwards.

Up to 1 April 1983, mortgage holders who did not qualify for tax relief could apply under the Option Mortgage Scheme for low interest rate bonus. The lenders were reimbursed by the Department (*Section G*). The scheme has now been subsumed in the arrangements for mortgage interest relief at source (MIRAS), and expenditure will reduce to residual amounts from 1983/84.



**Class VIII, Vote 1: Local Environmental Services, etc, England.**

These small grants to water authorities and local authorities support various types of minor local expenditure, including capital works on rural water and sewerage supplies, and coast protection schemes.

**Class VIII, Vote 2: Central Environmental Services etc.**

The grant to the British Waterways Board (*Section A*) was increased in 1982/83 to enable faster progress on dealing with the backlog of maintenance on the canals. *Section B* covers payment of grant towards derelict land reclamation by individuals, companies and bodies other than local authorities. The value of claims received during the year was lower than expected, because of some slippage in the completion of projects. The Development Fund (*Section C*) is used to promote the economic and social well-being of the rural areas of England, mainly through provision of workshops, small factory units and assistance to small firms. The grants-in-aid to the Sports Council and Nature Conservancy Council (*Section D*) were also increased to enable them to continue to develop their work. The change to grant-in-aid status of the Countryside Commission (*Section D*) resulted in certain expenditure previously provided for in other votes having to be met from this Vote. Other miscellaneous payments in 1982/83 included a grant of £1.9 million towards the operating expenses of the Zoological Society of London (*Section D*).

**Class VIII, Vote 3: Local Planning Services, England.**

Local authorities have been encouraged to increase their expenditure on derelict land clearance over the last three years, with increased public expenditure provision, particularly for Category A schemes (reclamation for immediate and identified re-use of the reclaimed land). Grants to local authorities to support this work (*Section C*) have been increasing correspondingly. Town and Country Planning Compensation (*Section D*) covers residual payments of compensation for loss of development value of land established prior to 1955. Claims follow from a refusal of planning permission for the land in question. The number and size of such claims in any year cannot be forecast with accuracy.

**Class VIII, Vote 4: Royal Palaces, Royal Parks, Historic Buildings, Ancient Monuments and the National Heritage.**

The grant to the National Heritage Memorial Fund (*Section D*) was increased by £4 million during the year so as to build up the Fund to deal with contingencies that may arise requiring expenditure on the heritage. The vote overspent by £190,000 (0.4%) as a result of a shortfall in receipts, particularly admission charges at ancient monuments.

**Class VIII, Vote 6: Urban Programme Grants, England.**

Provision was increased to cover Exchequer grants towards a planned increase in local authority expenditure on inner city initiatives, including the introduction of Urban Development Grants.

**Class VIII, Vote 7: Urban Development Corporations, England.**

1982/83 was the first full year of activity for the two Urban Development Corporations, London Docklands and Merseyside, and the increase in provision reflects this. The Corporations have quickly built up momentum on the regeneration of their areas.

**Class XVIII, Vote 1: Rate Support Grants to Local Revenues, England.**

The shortfall on this vote reflects the holdback in Rate Support Grant payments to overspending local authorities.

**Class XVIII, Vote 6: Rate Rebate Grants (England) and Additional Rate Support Grants (England and Wales) to Local Revenues.**

This vote provides principally for grants to rating authorities towards rates rebates and to compensate for loss of revenue on exempt property in Enterprise Zones (*Section B*). The substantial reduction in provision for 1983/84 reflects the fact that as from 1 April 1983 rates rebates are also to be subsumed in the Housing Benefit Scheme, the cost of which is borne by DHSS. The smaller provision covers settlement of residual claims from earlier years. *Section A* of the vote mainly covers a number of minor RSG payments. The large underspend on this section reflects mainly the fact that the Government has been unable to make payments of some £11.5 million of residual RSG for earlier years, pending the outcome of litigation by the London Borough of Camden.



**Class VIII, Vote 5 Central administration and environmental research**

£000's Cash	1981/82 Outturn	1982/83 Estimate provision (a)	1982/83 Provisional outturn	1983/84 Estimate provision (b)
<b>Section A Housing Subsidies:</b>				
Housing Corporation, grant in aid	10,816	11,040	9,795	11,750
<b>Section B Housing Administration</b>				
1 Expenses of rent officers	15,242	18,100	17,238	19,100
2 Housing research and surveys	(c)	823	643	661
3 Rent assessment panels	(d)	2,273	2,303	2,373
4 National exchange scheme	-	200	174	300
Z Appropriations in aid (receipts)	(5)	(8)	(9)	(23)
<b>Section B Net total</b>	<b>15,237</b>	<b>21,388</b>	<b>20,349</b>	<b>22,411</b>
<b>Section C Central Administration</b>				
1 Salaries etc	(e,f)69,778	51,050	49,610	49,869
2 General administrative expenses	(e,f)21,658	20,797	16,686	(g)55,260
3 Administrative computers: current expenditure	4,460	2,699	2,322	2,699
4 Administrative computers: capital expenditure	553	986	497	739
5 Other tribunals, commissions, committees etc	(d)7,959	3,644	3,072	3,410
6 Enforcement appeals and established use certificates	11	63	36	51
7 Tenants' right to buy dwellings	14	200	11	10
Z Appropriations in aid (receipts)	(e,f)(32,567)	(14,655)	(14,963)	(13,357)
<b>Section C Net total</b>	<b>(e,f)71,866</b>	<b>64,784</b>	<b>57,271</b>	<b>(g)98,681</b>
<b>Section D District Audit Service</b>				
1 Salaries etc		6,211	6,078	} (h)8,892
2 General administrative expenses		2,680	2,896	
3 Audit Commission: preparatory expenditure		60	45	
Z Appropriations in aid (receipts)		(8,951)	(9,019)	(h)(8,892)
<b>Section D Net total</b>	<b>(e)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Section E Royal Palaces, Royal Parks, Historic Buildings, Ancient Monuments and the Heritage: Administration and Management</b>				
1 Salaries etc		11,620	11,562	
2 General administrative expenses		3,240	3,057	
3 Payments to Metropolitan Police in respect of policing of Hyde Park		640	701	
4 Royal Commission on historical monuments (England)		1,375	1,453	
5 Research into conservation of ancient monuments and historic buildings		24	45	
Z Appropriations in aid (receipts)		(15)	(22)	
<b>Section E Net total</b>	<b>(f)</b>	<b>16,884</b>	<b>16,796</b>	<b>(i)</b>

£000's Cash	1981/82 Outturn	1982/83 Estimate provision (a)	1982/83 Provisional outturn	1983/84 Estimate provision (b)
<b>Section F Building and Construction Research (j)</b>				
1 Building Research Establishment expenses	11,453	9,162	9,468	9,638
2 Building Research Establishment: other current expenditure	3,201	1,200	1,540	1,249
3 Building Research Establishment: capital expenditure	1,424	1,008	1,360	930
4 Building and construction research	(k)	2,310	1,756	2,285
Z Appropriations in aid (receipts)	(4,977)	(2,047)	(2,231)	(2,145)
<b>Section F Net total</b>	<b>11,101</b>	<b>11,633</b>	<b>11,893</b>	<b>11,957</b>
<b>Section G Environmental Research and Surveys</b>				
1 Grant to Royal Society	180	173	144	(l)
2 Hydraulics Research Station (m)	26	5,829	5,016	2,353
3 Centre for Environmental Studies	53	180	284	10
4 Environmental research and surveys	(c,k) 23,058	21,627	19,214	20,990
Z Appropriations in aid (receipts) (m)	(61)	(2,978)	(2,455)	(1,239)
<b>Section G Net total</b>	<b>23,256</b>	<b>24,831</b>	<b>22,203</b>	<b>22,114</b>
<b>Section H Dog and game Licences</b>				
	3,124	3,675	3,680	3,850
<b>Section I Audit Commission</b>				
	-	25	15	(h)
<b>Vote total (net of receipts)</b>	<b>135,400</b>	<b>154,260</b>	<b>142,002</b>	<b>(g)170,763</b>

**Notes**

1982/83 figures are unaudited: see note on status of 1982/83 accounts on page 50

Sections and Subheads are as in the 1982/83 Supply Estimates.

- a Supply Estimates as amended by Revised Estimates.
- b Supply Estimates plus July 1983 Supplementary Estimates.
- c Expenditure on housing research included under Subhead G4 in 1981/82; thereafter under B2.
- d Expenditure on Rent assessment panels included under Subhead C5 in 1981/82; thereafter under B3.
- e Expenditure and receipts in respect of District Audit Service, included under Section C in 1981/82, and under Section D in 1982/83. See also note (h).
- f Expenditure and receipts in respect of Royal Parks etc Administration included in Section C in 1981/82, and under Section E in 1982/83. See also note (i).
- g Provision includes almost £36 million for payments to Property Services Agency (PSA) for accommodation services. Prior to 1 April 1983, costs were borne on a PSA Vote.
- h 1983/84 expenditure and receipts relate to the formation, on 1 April 1983, of the Audit Commission: receipts will include fees in respect of work done by the former District Audit Service

prior to 1 April 1983, and reimbursement by the Commission of the salaries of seconded staff. See also note (e).

- i Provision in respect of Royal Parks etc. Administration transferred to Class VIII, Vote 4 for 1983/84. See also note (f).
- j For 1981/82, includes expenditure on hydraulics research, other than costs incurred in connection with privatisation of Hydraulics Research Station. See also note (m).
- k Expenditure on building and construction research included under subhead G4 in 1981/82; thereafter under F4.
- l Grant covered the cost of the Society's membership contribution to the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis, and has been discontinued as from 1983/84.
- m Expenditure associated with the privatisation of Hydraulics Research Station (HRS), which took place on 1 April 1982, to cover the payment of grant and of salaries of DOE staff seconded to HRS. Reimbursement of salaries by HRS is recorded as Appropriation in Aid (Subhead G Z) within the Vote. See also note (j).



## Vote VIII, 5: Central administration and environmental research

### Outturn for 1982/83

There was a net underspend of some £12 million on the Vote in 1982/83, spread over various sections, but in particular reflecting larger than expected reductions in salary and running costs of the Department (*Section C*) and in Housing Corporation administration costs (*Section A*); and some slippage in a number of research contracts (*Section G*).

### Subhead C2: General administrative expenses

The major element of the £4 million underspend on this subhead was due to the change from official pre-paid envelopes to ordinary postal methods, which resulted in lower expenditure than forecast. There were minor variations on other administrative items, mainly underspends.

### Subhead C4: Administrative computers: capital expenditure

The underspend was largely due to slippage in some computer projects, which deferred some expenditure to 1983/84.

### Subhead C5: Other tribunals, commissions, committees, etc

This subhead covers the running costs of a range of central and local bodies including Royal Commissions, the Local Government Boundary Commission, Local Valuation Panels. The volume of work of a number of the bodies was less than anticipated in 1982/83, and costs were correspondingly lower.

### Subhead C7: Tenants' right to buy dwellings

This covers expenses incurred by the Secretary of State in exercising his power to intervene to allow tenants to exercise the right to buy their homes. Expenditure depends on the number of cases in which intervention occurs, and in 1982/83 was substantially lower than the provision.

### Section F: Building and construction research

The overspends on Building Research Establishment running costs and capital expenditure (*Subheads F1, F2 and F3*) were substantially offset within the Section by underspending on extra-mural research contracts (*Subhead F4*) and higher receipts from co-sponsors of research (*Subhead FZ*). The overspend on capital (*Subhead F3*) was due to a number of purchases of equipment being brought forward.

### Subhead G3: Centre for Environmental Studies

This Subhead covers expenditure arising from the closure of the Centre, including payments to cover liabilities related to pensions of former staff. The overspend reflects the fact that these payments, as determined on the basis of actuarial calculations, were higher than originally estimated.

### Subhead G4: Environmental research and surveys

The underspend was due mainly to a number of research contracts starting or being completed later than anticipated: some final payments slipped into 1983/84.

### Section H: Dog and game licences

This covers payments to the Post Office relating to the cost of issuing licences on behalf of local authorities.

### Vote provision for 1983/84

The 1983/84 provision includes for the first time payments of almost £36 million to the Property Services Agency (PSA) for accommodation services used by the Department. These costs were until 1983/84 borne on a PSA Vote, and not charged directly to Departments.

The provision excludes the administration and research costs of the Department's Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings (some £16 million), which has been transferred to Class VIII Vote 4 as from 1983/84.

## Senior Officials of the Department of the Environment at 31st March 1983

Excluding the Property Services Agency

Sir George Moseley KCB  
Permanent Secretary and Accounting Officer

P J Harrop CB  
Second Permanent Secretary and Accounting Officer

J Delafons CB  
Deputy Secretary, Planning

K F J Ennals CB  
Director General, Organisation and Establishments

T M Heiser  
Deputy Secretary, Finance and Local Government  
(Principal Finance Officer)

M W Holdgate CB  
Deputy Secretary, Environmental Protection, Countryside and Sport  
Chief Scientist

W I McIndoe CB  
Deputy Secretary, Housing and Construction

M J Ware  
Solicitor



## The Department's administration and manpower

### Distribution of staff

Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings  
Including direct labour force

27%

Establishments, including office services  
Including work for DTp

24%

Regional offices

12%

Building Research Establishment

11%

Planning

9%

Housing and Construction

5%

Local Government and Finance

5%

Environmental Protection, Countryside  
and Sport

3%

Central Services  
Legal, statistics and information

3%

Water

1%

The Establishments Organisation provides personnel management, training, and office services (such as typing, registry and messengers) for both the Department of the Environment and the Department of Transport. It also contains the computer staff of the two Departments and the units dealing with organisational efficiency. Roughly two-fifths of the total effort goes on DTp work.

The Department's Regional Offices keep in touch with local authorities, other public bodies and the private sector throughout England, and in particular deal with a large amount of the case work concerned with housing and planning.

The Government is committed to improve the efficiency of the Civil Service and so to secure greater economy and better management. The Department is playing its part. In 1982/83 it cost £110 million to run; a reduction of £3 million (3%) on the cost of corresponding activities in the previous year.

This was achieved by better management and control of manpower and other administrative resources. Central to the control arrangements is the Management Information System for Ministers (MINIS). This is linked with an annual manpower budget and with Management of Administrative Expenditure Information System (MAXIS).

MINIS, which is published, provides the raw material for an annual review of each area of activity by the Secretary of State and his colleagues. Each activity is scrutinised to ensure it is appropriate for the public sector, that it is being executed efficiently, and that it is worth the cost of the effort that goes into it. MINIS has been successful not only in revealing substantial scope for economies in the Department but also in enabling Ministers to ensure that resources are allocated in accordance with their priorities and objectives. The disciplines of the system have also helped to develop greater awareness of the need to manage the Department's resources well.

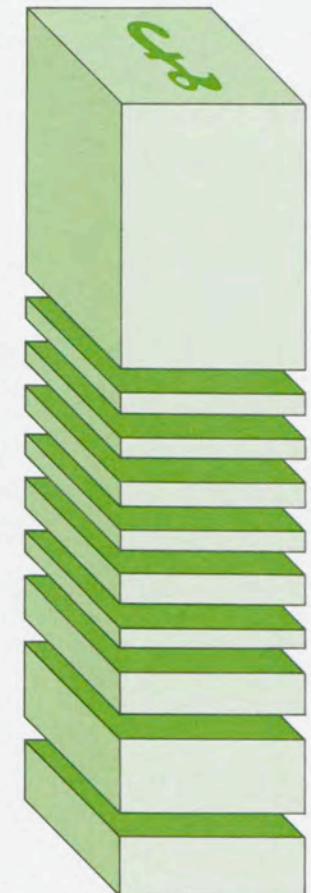
The main preparations for the introduction of MAXIS took place during 1982/83. It provides a computerised framework for estimating, monitoring and controlling administrative running costs. To facilitate the transfer of a greater measure of responsibility for the control of running costs from central divisions to individual managers about 150 units called 'cost centres' have been set up. MAXIS became operational from April 1983.

Supporting these resource controls is a continuous programme of studies and reviews, some by outside consultants. The aim is to ensure that the Department is sensibly organised, that appropriate staff are employed on the tasks to be done, and that advantage is taken of new technology. In 1982/83, for example, the Department was engaged in implementing the reports of Rayner studies into support services at the Building Research Establishment and into the organisation of cartographic services. Both reports recommended significant organisational and staffing changes.

As a result of the MINIS and manpower budgeting processes for reviewing work it was possible to reduce the number of staff employed during 1982/83 by 989 (11%). This included 502 staff in the District Audit Service for local authority accounts who moved to the new Audit Commission which came into being on 1 April 1983.

### Gross Administrative expenditure of the Department £110m

Administrative expenditure except for the parts of the Department separately identified in Vote VIII, 5	Salaries	£50m
	Administrative expenditure	£20m
	Travel and Removals	£3m
	Post and Telecommunications	£3m
	Stationery	£5m
	Computing	£3m
	Other	£6m
Parts of the Department separately identified in Vote VIII, 5	Tribunals, commissions, committees etc	£3m
	District audit service	£9m
	Royal palaces, Royal parks, ancient monuments and historic buildings administration	£16m
	Building research establishment	£12m



These figures exclude the cost of accommodation which, prior to 1983/84, was borne on a PSA vote.

Functional category		Staff numbers	Non-industrial	Industrial	Total
Senior management	1/2%	1979	9330	1918	11248
Administration and executive	23%	1980	8799 1/2	1761 1/2	10561
Clerical and secretarial	25 1/2%	1981	8220	1632	9852
Professional and technical	8%	1982	7337	1465	8802
Scientific	6%	1983	6522 1/2	1290 1/2	7813
Specialist grades	10%	1984 (Estimated)			6650
Supporting staff	11%	(1 April in each case)			
Industrial staff	16%				

Under present plans, including the establishment of the new Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, the size of the Department will have been reduced by 40% between 1979 and 1984.



## Structure of the Department

Permanent Secretary	
Director General Organisation and Establishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senior Staff Management</li> <li>Personnel Management and Training</li> <li>Administrative Resources</li> <li>Information</li> </ul>
Deputy Secretary Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inner Cities</li> <li>Regional Policy and Development</li> <li>Land Use Policy</li> <li>Research, Minerals and New Towns</li> <li>London Housing and Planning</li> <li>Regional Offices (8) and Merseyside Task Force</li> </ul>
Deputy Secretary Finance and Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Government Finance Policy</li> <li>Housing, Water, Central Finance</li> <li>Local Government</li> </ul>
Solicitor	
Chief Scientist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment Science Policy Unit</li> <li>Building Research Establishment</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics</li> <li>Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings</li> <li>Planning Inspectorate</li> </ul>
Second Permanent Secretary	
Deputy Secretary Housing and Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing (3 Directorates)</li> <li>Construction Industry</li> </ul>
Deputy Secretary Environmental Protection, Countryside, and Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air, Noise, and Wastes</li> <li>Environmental Pollution</li> <li>Rural Affairs</li> <li>Sport and Recreation</li> <li>Water</li> </ul>

## The Department and Parliament

### Legislation

	1981/82 Session November 1981 – November 1982	1982/83 Session November 1982 – May 1983
<b>Government Bills Receiving Royal Assent</b>		
Departmental	Local Government (Finance) Bill New Towns (Money) Bill Derelict Land Bill	Mobile Homes Bill Water Bill
Other Departments Bills with major DOE interest	Local Government Bill (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Home Office) Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill (DHSS)	National Heritage Bill (DES) Miscellaneous Financial Provisions Bill (Treasury)
<b>Lost at Dissolution</b>		Housing and Building Control Bill Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers) Bill
<b>Statutory instruments laid before Parliament</b>		
negative	67	53
affirmative	7	5
<b>Adjournment debates</b>	26	22
<b>Parliamentary questions</b>		
Oral	357	262
Written	2104	1400
Total	2461	1662

### Environment Select Committee

The Department provided evidence to the Committee for its enquiries into Methods of Financing Local Government, the Private Rented Sector, the management of Urban Renewal and on the Department's main and supplementary Estimates

### Investigations by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration

Year	Number of Complaints	Accepted for Investigation	Completed Reports	Complaint Upheld	Not upheld but some criticism
1981	57	8	12	3	3
1982	63	7	6	3	0



## Other sources of information

Further information about the Department's accounts and budgets may be found in these documents. All are available from HMSO.

Appropriation Accounts 1981/82 (Classes VII, VIII and XVIII)  
HC 42 1982/83.

The Government's Expenditure Plans 1982/83 to 1984/85 Cmnd 8494.

Supply Estimates 1982/83 (Classes VII, VIII and XVIII)  
HC 214 1981/82.

Supply Estimates 1982/83 (Summer Supplementary)  
HC 432 1981/82.

Supply Estimates 1982/83 (Winter Supplementary)  
HC 13 1982/83.

Supply Estimates 1982/83 (Spring Supplementary)  
HC 186 1982/83.

Appropriation Accounts 1982/83 (not yet published)

The Government's Expenditure Plans 1983/84 to 1985/86 Cmnd 8789.

Supply Estimates 1983/84 (Classes VII, VIII and XVIII)  
HC 237 1982/83.

Supply Estimates 1983/84 (Summer Supplementary)  
HC 27 1983/84.

Local Government Finance: The Rate Support Grant Report (England)  
1982/83 HC 141 1981/82.

Local Government Finance: The Rate Support Grant.

Supplementary Report (England) 1982/83 HC 110 1982/83.

HMSO also publish a number of statistical series (covering Housing, Local Government, Construction, Pollution and Water), Government policy statements in the form of White Papers, the more important reports and studies relating to the Department's work, and the annual reports of many of the public bodies mentioned in this report.

The 'Annual list of Publications' and its monthly supplements provide details of all the publications issued by the Department – the 1982 list is available from DOE/DTP Sub-Library, Building 6, Victoria Road, South Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 0NZ for £1.35 plus 16½p postage. Details of selected publications of current interest can be found on Prestel – Frame 500323.

The statements from the Management Information System for Ministers (MINIS), describing in detail the organisation and work of the Department during 1982/83 and plans for 1983/84, are available from Room N10/19A, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB. A complete set (11 volumes) costs £64.50 including postage: individual volumes cost between £3.25 and £9.00.

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