

pa
DMS
21/2

Prime Minister⁽²⁾: To note that the Royal Commission's report will be published on Wednesday. X and Y will be especially controversial.
DMS
20/2

MR BARCLAY

ROYAL COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION: TENTH REPORT

The Royal Commission's Tenth Report, "Tackling Pollution - Experience and Prospects", will be published on Wednesday, 22 February.

The report is a wide ranging study of experience in pollution control over the past decade and of priorities for the future. Particular emphasis is given to atmospheric pollution and to pollution of estuaries, coastal waters and the North Sea.

The report makes a series of recommendations which will stimulate the current debate on our handling of pollution issues and provide the various pressure groups with plenty of scope to embarrass the Government.

These include:

- It is essential to reverse a decreasing emphasis on environmental protection in the UK, characterised by significant reductions in the resources available for research, monitoring and forward thinking. The UK should play a more positive role in Europe.
- The need for unnecessary secrecy to be removed with a presumption in favour of unrestricted access for the public to information on environmental pollution. Provision for secrecy only in those circumstances where a genuine case for it can be substantiated.
- X | - A legislative ban on straw burning to take effect in five years' time.
- Y | - The UK should reappraise its stance on irretrievable discharges to the sea of toxic substances which are unarguably persistent and bioaccumulative.
- Improvements in the undesirable degree of sewage contamination on many of our beaches.
- Further study on the inputs and effects of contaminants to the Irish Sea.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

- An early date, at least within five years, should now be set by which all tipping of colliery waste on the foreshore of the United Kingdom must come to an end.
- High priority should be given to research on acid deposition, in particular on the causes and effects, on the interactions with other pollutants, and on remedial action.
- The CEEB should introduce on a pilot basis over the next five years certain of the sulphur dioxide abatement options that are already available.
- Various proposals to improve the co-ordination and machinery for implementation of pollution control measures.

Nevertheless the report is a thorough and impressive piece of work and we shall need to consider our response carefully. Patrick Jenkin is proposing to make a statement next week which will welcome the report and promise a constructive Government response by the end of the session.

All of this emphasises the points we made to the Prime Minister in our earlier paper on environmental pollution on the need to review both our policy and its presentation.

The Official Committee on Environmental Protection (EP) is scheduled to meet on 2 March and we hope that the Prime Ministerial meeting referred to in Andrew Turnbull's letter of 24 January can take place shortly afterwards. The Royal Commission's report will be important background for this meeting.

DLP.

mb

DAVID PASCALL
20 February 1984



Mr Pascell

Pa
DUB
20/2

**Royal Commission
on Environmental Pollution**

Church House
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BL

You may like to see.

DoE do not think there
is any need to trouble the
PM with this. Agree?

Your reference

Our reference

RC/93/2

Direct line 01-212 5600
Switchboard 01-212 3434

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary to
the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

DUB
20/2

17 February 1984

Dear Butler

TENTH REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION

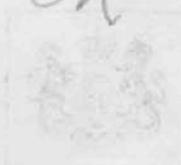
... Further to my letter of 7 February, I now enclose an advance copy of the Commission's Tenth Report, which is to be published on Wednesday 22 February.

I am sending copies of this letter and of the Report to the recipients of my previous letter.

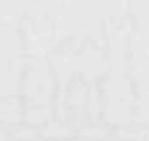
Yours sincerely
Tom Radice

T E RADICE
Secretary to the Commission

Env. Affairs: Royal Commission on
Env. Pollution Sept. 79.



COMMISSION



CONFIDENTIAL



NBPM AT 13/2
Mr. Turnbull

CABINET OFFICE

~~Central Policy Review Staff~~

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 7089

Mr Robin Butler
10 Downing Street
London SW1

9 February 1984

Dear Robin,

TENTH REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

I have seen a copy of the letter from Radice to you dated 7 February about the forthcoming Tenth Report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution. You might wish to know that the proposal in paragraph 6.13 that an assessment should be made of the sources and cures of pollution from the newer industries is already under active consideration by ACARD. ACARD recognised this problem independently from the Royal Commission but in the last few weeks we have had the benefit of discussions with Sir Richard Southwood, during which he disclosed to us in confidence the comments made in paragraph 6.13.

It is likely that ACARD will set up a working group to study this particular aspect of pollution since it relates so strongly to previous ACARD reports of new technologies. However a decision whether or not to go ahead with this study will only be made at ACARD's meeting on 7 April.

Copies of this letter go to other recipients of Radice's letter.

Yours ever,
Robin

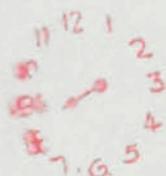
ROBIN B NICHOLSON
Chief Scientific Adviser

CONFIDENTIAL

Eno Affairs Sept 79

Eno. Polutan

110 FEB 1984



010

*By Pas call
You might like to get
hold of a copy of this
for you with a
pollution*

Mr. T. Radice



**Royal Commission
on Environmental Pollution**

Church House
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BL

Your reference

Our reference RC/93/2

Direct line 01-212 5600
Switchboard 01-212 3434

F E R Butler Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

7 February 1984

Dear Butler

TENTH REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION

You may wish to inform the Prime Minister that the Royal Commission's Tenth Report, 'Tackling Pollution - Experience and Prospects' will be sent to the Home Secretary at the beginning of next week for submission to Her Majesty the Queen. It is envisaged that Sir Richard Southwood will hold a press conference to mark the publication of the Report on the morning of Wednesday 22 February.

The Tenth Report is the outcome of a wide-ranging study of experience in pollution control over the past decade and of priorities for the future, and makes a variety of recommendations, mainly in relation to the administration of pollution control (particularly in the context of EC membership) and on specific problems within the general fields of atmospheric, estuarine and coastal pollution.

Copies of this letter go, for information, to Rawsthorne (Home Office), Hatfield (Cabinet Office), Heyhoe (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Kerr (Treasury), Ballard (Environment), Dinah Nichols (Transport), McCarthy (DTI), Reidy (Energy), Godber (DHSS), Llewelyn (MAFF), Fall (FCO), Graham (Scottish Office), Jones (Welsh Office) and Lyon (NIO).

*Yours sincerely
T E Radice*

T E RADICE
Secretary to the Commission



ROYAL COMMISSION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

8 FEB 1984

Royal Commission
on Environmental Pollution