

CONFIDENTIAL



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

NDPM  
AT  
30/3

29 March 1984

Dear Patrick,

MISC 95: EDUCATION IN LONDON

As you know I was not able to attend yesterday's meeting of MISC 95, nor shall I be able to attend this afternoon's meeting.

I am, however, considerably perturbed to hear that the Group may conclude that the first elections to a directly elected ILEA should be held in May 1985 and that provision for them should be included in the Paving Bill. This issue was of course discussed in Cabinet on 15 March and, in my recollection, it was explicitly agreed that the Paving Bill should not include provision for such elections. The argument that the inclusion of these provisions would delay introduction of the Bill clearly now falls, but the probability of their inclusion delaying the passage of the Bill and having a knock on effect on other important legislation remains strong. I remain convinced on these grounds that no attempt should be made to change the Cabinet decision. Assuming the principle of a directly-elected ILEA is agreed, an appropriate statement at second reading debate or thereafter should satisfy those who are concerned about this without danger to the remainder of this session's legislative programme and without infringing the principle that the Paving Bill should not deal with substantive abolition issues.

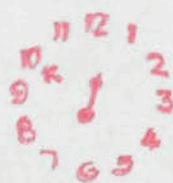
I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord President of the Council, the Chief Whip, members of MISC 95 and Sir Robert Armstrong.

JOHN BIFFEN

Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment

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29 MAR 1984



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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AT

30 March 1984

Dear John,

MISC 95: EDUCATION IN LONDON

<sup>With AT?</sup>  
The Lord President has seen the Lord Privy Seal's letter of 29 March to your Secretary of State. He has asked me to say that he very strongly supports what the Lord Privy Seal says about the possibility that MISC 95 might recommend that provision should be included in the Paving Bill for direct elections to ILEA in May 1985.

I am sending copies of this letter to Andrew Turnbull, David Heyhoe, to the Private Secretaries of Ministers who attended yesterday's meeting of MISC 95, and to Richard Hatfield.

Yours ever,

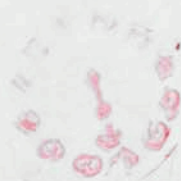
Janet Lewis-Jones.

JANET A LEWIS-JONES  
Private Secretary

John Ballard Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
S/S for the Environment

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30 MAR 1984





10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister ②

This is on the agenda for  
Wednesday's meeting of  
MISC 95. You might like  
to see how Sir Keith  
develops the argument  
for a directly elected  
ILEA; which is a  
precepting body; and which is  
subject to review.

The outcome of the  
discussion will be incorporated  
in MISC 95's report to colleagues,  
along with the other issues it  
is considering.

AT

23/3