

CONFIDENTIAL



BP for 24 July meeting  
CO NO,  
AT  
1317

Prime Minister

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BURDENS ON SMALL FIRMS

I have seen Norman Tebbit's minute to you of 27 June about small firms, and your own response.

I share your view about the need to make faster and more visible progress.

As far as DOE is concerned we can certainly issue a further circular to local authorities and I would like to put some ideas to them straightaway.

I would propose to urge them - within current manpower and financial constraints - to adopt the "one-stop" philosophy wherever feasible. For the smaller authorities a checklist of contact points, possibly combined with a troubleshooter, may be a sensible alternative.

As regards my Department's own responsibilities we have already relaxed local authorities' controls considerably, as I am sure Norman recognises. I am also about to issue a circular to local authorities on industrial development generally, much of which will apply equally to small firms.

I should be happy to see if there is more I can do as part of a wider "pruning" exercise. This could in my view best be handled centrally in DTI since it will need to go wider than local authorities' own requirements and concerns several Departments' legislation.

I think it important that we should start any such exercise from a clear assessment of what causes small firms real difficulties: CoSIRA's experience may be relevant here, as well as that of the Small Firms Service.

PJ

P J

12 July 1984



Even Pol : Small time Pt 4