



CABINET OFFICE

From the Minister of State

Lord Gowrie

MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL OFFICE

Great George Street

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Telephone 01-233 8610

The Rt Hon Peter Walker MBE MP
Secretary of State for Energy
Thames House South
Millbank
LONDON SW1P 4QJ

16 July 1984

to the Sec

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12/7*

MULTI-DEPARTMENT REVIEW OF ACCOMMODATION

Thank you for your letter of 5 July. I am very grateful for your support.

I have noted your points about charging departments actual rent and rates wherever possible. This is essentially a question of the development of the Property Repayment Services (PRS) system. We need to ensure that the multi-department review of accommodation does not cut across the work of the official level interdepartmental committee on PRS, but I am sure that evidence will come out of the review on the way the system is working at present. This evidence can then be used in consideration of future developments of PRS.

I fully accept your suggestion that the efficiency of energy use by departments should be included in the review. I have asked my officials to write this into the central study plan, upon which departmental examining officers will base their individual study plans for the review. This is clearly an important part of efficient accommodation management.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Tom King, Patrick Jenkin, Nicholas Ridley, Nigel Lawson, Norman Tebbit, Michael Heseltine, Michael Jopling, Peter Rees, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Robin Ibbs.

Yours,

7/17

LORD GOWRIE

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cc: S/Emp. S/Energy
S/Env S/Defence
S/Trans S/MAFF
Ch/Ex RTA
S/DTI Sir A. Ibbotson

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 July 1984

MULTI-DEPARTMENT REVIEWS 1984/85

The Prime Minister has now considered Lord Gowrie's minute of 11 June, in which he proposes a second review of the management of civil accommodation.

The Prime Minister is content for this review to proceed, subject to any further comments from colleagues.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries of the recipients of Lord Gowrie's minute.

David Barclay

Miss Sonia Phippard,
Lord Gowrie's Office.

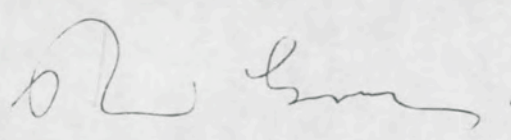
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The Rt Hon Earl of Gowrie
Minister of State
Privy Council Office
Great George Street
LONDON
SW1

5 July 1984



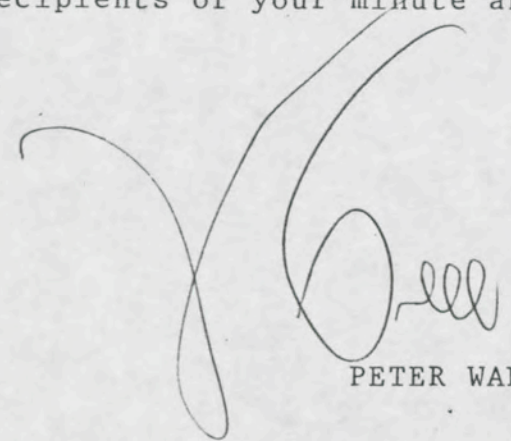
MULTI-DEPARTMENT REVIEWS 1984-85

Thank you for copying to me your minute of 11 June to the Prime Minister proposing a review of the management of civil accommodation.

I fully support the proposed review and would be glad for my Department to take part in it. As you know, I believe we need to do a lot more to give Departments a proper say in their own affairs on accommodation and a greater sense of responsibility for it, including the payment of actual rents and rates when these are available. I agree very much with comments by Nicholas Ridley and Norman Tebbit on this score in recent correspondence.

I would like to suggest one amendment to the detailed specification for the review as set out in the note attached to your minute. Energy efficiency is an area of growing importance and Departments should be given every encouragement to cut their fuel bills and reduce costs. You are already suggesting that the review should focus on the allocation of responsibility for heating and lighting, as one of its themes. I would like to see this extended to include an investigation of the scope for improving the efficiency of energy use by departments.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of your minute and to Peter Rees.



PETER WALKER

- 6 JUL 1984

