

PRIME MINISTER

ROYAL ACADEMY APPEAL

You were not happy with the draft reply to Sir Hugh Casson about the Royal Academy Appeal. You felt it was too long, and rather unforthcoming.

I attach a revised and shortened version, which goes a little further towards offering Sir Hugh an additional Government contribution in 1985/86, but still falls short of a commitment. This apparently is as far as Lord Gowrie is prepared to go without the promise of some help ~~from~~ the Chief Secretary.

Content to send this draft?

Or shall we press OAL and the Treasury a little harder, on the following lines:

- (i) The Royal Academy is a unique institution, which has done well to be as independent of Government as it has, and it deserves a modest additional contribution from the taxpayer.

- (ii) You accept that the 1984/85 Arts Budget is fully committed; but you would like to tell Sir Hugh Casson that in 1985/86 the Government will equal its previous contribution by providing a further £250,000.

- (iii) You would be grateful if the Minister for the Arts and the Chief Secretary could discuss and agree between them how this money should be found; but you would be content with a solution which found half from out of the planned budget for the Arts, and allowed half as an additional bid in the forthcoming PES round.

*Yes please
mt*

DMS

3 August 1984



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

August 1984

When you and your colleagues came to see me about the Appeal on 19 June, I undertook to reflect further on your request for an additional Government contribution.

I start from a position of warm support for the objectives of the Appeal. The Royal Academy has a magnificent record in presenting exhibitions of the highest quality, and it is important for us all that you should bring the building to a standard which enables you to maintain and enhance that record in the future.

I know too that you are trying hard to raise funds from the private sector, and that you believe that even a modest further contribution from the Government could encourage more donations.

I am however faced with the difficulty that our arts budget for the current year is already fully committed. In effect, therefore, we could only find more money for the Royal Academy Appeal by taking it away from other institutions which have already been promised it.

But I hope it will be possible to do something next year. As you know, the Government will be drawing up its spending plans for 1985-86 this Autumn. I have no doubt that the financial position will again be very tight, both

for the arts budget and generally. Nevertheless, I can undertake that we will do our best to find room for some additional contribution to your Appeal, although I am afraid I can give no specific figure at this stage. Of course the progress that you can make yourselves between now and then in raising money from the private sector will be part of the picture; and I hope that you will keep Grey Gowrie in touch with that.

Sir Hugh Casson, KCVO

Sir Hugh CASSON



File [Signature]

CF pres.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

31 July 1984

As we discussed on the telephone I attach a revised and shortened version of the proposed draft reply to Sir Hugh Casson. The Prime Minister has not yet seen this, and I should be grateful for your comments before submitting it.

Bf |
[Signature]

David Barclay

Richard Wilding, Esq.,
Office of Arts and Libraries

[Signature]



10 DOWNING STREET

Thurs 30/7
MR. BARCLAY

I discussed this letter with the Prime Minister, and the reason why she did not sign it is that it contains a lot of dross.

Could you please re-draft the letter to Hugh Casson.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'CR'.

27 July, 1984



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

This draft to Sir Hugh Casson
has been in your box before,
but I think may have gone
astray.

Content to sign?

Dub

26 July 1984



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

July 1984

When you and your colleagues came to see me about the Appeal on 19 June, I undertook to reflect on whether there was anything more which the Government could do to help.

You set out the case very fully and fairly in the documents you sent me and in your oral explanation of the problems which you face. As I see it, your Appeal has achieved substantial success on the endowment side, but it is - as you recognise - going much more slowly in raising funds for the improvement of the building. The Government did of course provide £250,000 for this purpose in 1982-83 and you must be disappointed not to have attracted more than a further £200,000 or so from private sources towards your need for £2 million (or £2½ million with an allowance for contingencies).

I start from a position of warm support for

I warmly support the objectives of the Appeal. The Royal Academy has a magnificent record in presenting exhibitions of the highest quality, and it is important that you should bring the building to a standard which enables you to maintain and enhance that record in the future.

Moreover, my colleagues and I greatly appreciate and, if I may say so, fully endorse your determination to keep the Royal Academy as an institution which is largely independent of Government financing. So we share a common approach to the present problem: it is a question of how the

I know too that you have made great efforts to raise finance from the private sector, and when we met

Royal Academy can best help itself, and whether the Government can take a further step to enable it to do so more effectively.

That being so, I suggest that your first step should be to strengthen the evidence that the Royal Academy really is doing everything it possibly can to press the building side of its Appeal. I make this suggestion for two reasons. The first is that the Government is not in a position to make a further grant in the current financial year, for which the Arts budget is I am afraid already fully committed. Secondly, I am not sure that the record so far really proves that a further promise of Government funding (which would have to be on a fairly modest scale) would have the desired effect on other potential donors. I think, if I may say so, that you need to buttress that side of an otherwise persuasive case.

How you set about that is of course a matter for you to decide. But one or two thoughts occur to me which I offer for any help they may be:-

- (1) I wonder whether it would be profitable to make a further systematic approach to firms in the construction and heating, lighting and ventilation industries. Some companies have in the past made very generous responses to appeals for help with such matters as lighting, and it should be possible for the Royal Academy to provide a permanent recognition of such contributions by means of notices or plaques in the exhibition rooms concerned.
- (2) You opened negotiations in 1981 with the then Historic Buildings Council, whose functions have now been taken over by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, for help

with the fabric. I am told that these negotiations have gone slowly and that the HBMC still await your detailed submission and estimates. I hope that you will pursue that line of approach with all speed and vigour.

- (3) You may think that it would be worthwhile to approach the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Its decisions are of course entirely a matter for the Trustees, and I understand that help to improve your ability to display heritage objects (among others) in suitable conditions would be something of a new departure for the Fund. This may therefore be a long shot, and I can obviously make no prediction about its prospect of success. But should you not try it?

As you know, the Government will be drawing up its spending plans for 1985-86 in the autumn. It would be wrong for me to make any promise in advance. The Arts budget will again be very tightly stretched and we must look at the prospects for public expenditure as a whole. But Grey Gowrie will then look carefully to see whether anything can be done, in the light of the progress which you have been able to make between now and then. Perhaps you could aim to let him have a further report before the end of October?

I am so sorry not to be able to give you an immediate 'yes' to such an eloquently argued case. But I know you understand how great are the other pressures on our arts expenditure - and do hope you will not underestimate either the capacity or the willingness of the private sector to help out.

Sir Hugh Casson, KCVO

Slhaci

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO SIR HUGH CASSON

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I am however faced with the difficulty that our arts budget for the current year is already fully committed. In effect, therefore, we could only find more money for the Royal Academy Appeal by taking it away from other institutions which have already been promised it.

~~But~~ *But I hope it will be possible to do something next year.*
~~But next year is a different matter.~~ As you know, the Government will be drawing up its spending plans for 1985-86 this Autumn. I have no doubt that the financial position will again be very tight, both for the arts budget and generally. Nevertheless, I can undertake that we will do our best to find room for some additional contribution to your Appeal, although I am afraid I can give no specific figure at this stage. Of course the progress that you can make yourselves between now and then in raising money from the private sector will be part of the picture; and I hope that you will keep Grey Gowrie in touch with that.