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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street SWIP 3AG

The Rt Hon John Selwyn Gummer MP Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH

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KEW GARDENS: ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE WILL REQUEST FROUTED

I am grateful to you for your letter of 18 September explaining the background to your PES bids for extra resources for Kew Gardens.

The importance which you attach to this work is understandable but I ought to point out to you that in this year's PES round I am wrestling with a very formidable list of priority claims. You will understand therefore that I cannot accommodate them all. I shall be looking to you and colleagues to assist with a rigorous reordering of priorities in your own programmes.

The Kew bids are relatively small and should be capable of accommodation within your existing programme at the expense of lesser priority work. I would expect you to look similarly at the remainder of your domestic agriculture bids which add up to an increase in your baseline of 11 per cent in 1990-91, building up to 17 per cent in 1992-93.

I look forward to a constructive discussion next Wednesday.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister.

NORMAN LAMONT

