



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

15 May 1980

Dear John,

I am so sorry for the delay in replying to your letter of 24 March about the appointment of the Trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund. As you will by now be aware, an amendment was passed during Commons Consideration of Lords Amendments so that the Trustees are appointed by me. The House of Lords agreed with this amendment on 31 March. We accepted that the prestige and independence of the Trustees would be safeguarded through their appointment being made by the Crown or by me, and not by the Ministers responsible for the policy area within which the Trustees will operate. However, we did not feel that the Trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund came into the same category as other bodies, all of whose members are appointed by the Crown, such as Royal Commissions and other bodies of considerable constitutional importance, for example, the Bank of England.

I have now appointed the majority of the Trustees and I know you will join me in wishing them well in their important task.

(SGD) MARGARET THATCHER

The Right Honourable the Lord Glendevon

vb

CF. to note

CCCDLO

*19/5 MAB
Amendments*

Original GR

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