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CSD (Min)
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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 June 1980

Dear Mary

Your Secretary of State today had a word with the Prime Minister about the proposed Advisory Committee for the Micro-electronics Development Programme. Our previous correspondence rests with Robert Green's letter of 19 May to me.

Mr. Carlisle explained to the Prime Minister that he felt a need for high quality professional advice in the development of the programme worth £9 million. Lady Young had now selected five individuals who could offer this advice. His intention was to keep the matter close to Ministers. The new Committee would in no sense be a "quango", and there would be no payment involved. If the Prime Minister were to agree that he could go ahead, he would intend to keep the arrangements low key and not to seek significant publicity.

On the basis of these explanations, the Prime Minister agreed that a Committee composed of these five individuals could be set up.

As was made clear in the enclosure to Robert Green's letter of 1 May, the Committee would automatically be wound up when the programme comes to an end. The five individuals have clearly been selected for the personal contribution they can make and there is no assumption that any one of them should automatically be replaced if he were to cease to participate.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Craig (Welsh Office), Andrew Brown (Northern Ireland Office), Geoffrey Green and David Laughrin (Civil Service Department) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Mike Pattison

Mrs. Mary Bowden,
Department of Education and Science.

MR

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 June 1980

cc WO
NIO
CSD
CSD (Min)
CO

Thank you for your letter of 10 June, with a correction on the subject of the Micro-Electronics Advisory Committee. The Prime Minister has noted this.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Craig (Welsh Office), Andrew Brown (Northern Ireland Office), Geoffrey Green and David Laughrin (Civil Service Department) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. A. PATTISON

Mrs. Mary Bowden,
Department of Education and Science.

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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

M Pattison Esq
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Prime Minister

*This is a correction
to Mr Carlisle's comment
that the body
would in no way
be a quango.*

10 June 1980

Dear Mike,

You wrote to me on 4 June about our proposed Microelectronics Advisory Committee.

Could I correct one point of detail? While the Committee would be fully accountable to Ministers and would involve no increase in the number of paid Ministerial appointments, it would, technically, be regarded as a non departmental public body and would have to appear in any published list. However, as Mr Carlisle explained, the sole function of the 5 outside specialists would be to help the departmental members and Assessors to advise Ministers on the conduct of the programme.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely

Mary Bowden

MRS M E BOWDEN
Private Secretary

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