

PRIME MINISTER

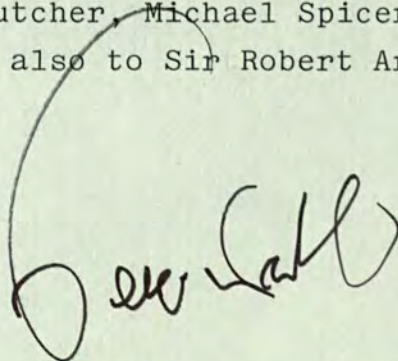
MULTI-DEPARTMENT REVIEW OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION MANAGEMENT

I think the report on accommodation that Grey Gowrie sent you on 20 June is a useful and important one. I endorse the theme that we should shift resources away from larger office accommodation towards better maintenance, furnishing and decoration. In my own Department's case, I commissioned a detailed study by consultants last year which indicated that we should be able to get by with virtually half the space we currently occupy in our London Headquarters. But the corollary was that we should give more thought and money to the working environment.

The report offers some valuable insights into the shortcomings of the Property Repayment Services. While Patrick Jenkin's recent proposals for greater delegation to Departments go in the right direction, I share the view of those colleagues who see a case for more radical change both in PRS itself and in the relationship between PSA and Departments. I welcome the report's recommendation that the Inter-Departmental Committee on PRS should be widened to include the Departments which participated in the Review.

The Review suggests in passing (paragraph 3.19) that Departments should appoint energy managers to monitor energy and make recommendations on how energy can be saved. As you know I feel that this is an essential first step to greater involvement by Departments in their own energy use. This suggestion would have greater effect if it was included as one of the recommendations for action, and covered in the subsequent progress report. The potential savings are significant.

I am copying this to Grey Gowrie, Peter Rees, Patrick Jenkin, Tom King, Barney Hayhoe, John Moore, John Butcher, Michael Spicer, Rodney Elton and Jean Trumpington, with copies also to Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Robin Ibbs.



Secretary of State for Energy
3 July 1985

605 MACH: Roger P. H.



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