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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

25 November 1988

2 Prime Minister

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Dear Nick

GREEN BILL

at top

Thank you for your letter of 22 November on what might be said about the timing of a Green Bill.

I fully understand your wish to be as positive as possible about the prospects of such a Bill. However, QL have not yet even begun to consider their recommendations to Cabinet on the 1989-90 legislative programme and, as I understand it, there is no technical requirement for your Bill to be introduced in that Session (although I naturally recognise that there may be a strong political case for this).

In these circumstances I believe that it would be most unwise to pre-empt the normal review of the programme as a whole by expressing an intention to introduce this Bill next Session, and I do not think that your suggested proviso about such a commitment being subject to The Queen's Speech would help us at all. In the special circumstances of the green issue, however, I do recognise your need to be as forthcoming as you can and, as my Private Secretary indicated to yours last Thursday, I would be content for you to say that the Government intends to bring forward legislation in this area during the course of the present Parliament. I would hope that this would be sufficient for the time being.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of QL and to Sir Robin Butler.

*Yours ever
John*

JOHN WAKEHAM

The Right Hon Nicholas Ridley AMICE MP
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