



Private Member's Bill

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The Rt Hon John Wakeham MP  
Lord President of the Council  
Privy Council Office  
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My ref:

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31 March 1989

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Dear John

MRS RUDDOCK'S CONTROL OF POLLUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

This Private Member's Bill received a Second Reading on 24 February <sup>attached</sup>

The stance agreed by L Committee at its meeting on 14 February was that the Government would support the Bill at Second Reading and in Committee press for the removal of Mrs Ruddock's enforcement clause. I am writing now to propose that we should change this stance to one of support for the entire Bill, subject to detailed amendment in Committee.

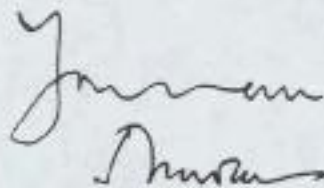
Our reasons for opposing the original enforcement proposals to stop and detain vehicles were that they went beyond the desirable scope of local authority officers' powers, that the police already had powers to stop vehicles, that the proposed procedures would be cumbersome and ineffective and that it was premature to enact them without consultation. My officials have since discussed these points with the Bill's promoters in London and with other concerned Departments. They are now satisfied that the enforcement powers proposed will address a small but real gap in local authorities' powers to trace those in control of offending vehicles. The procedure will still be cumbersome for an authority choosing to use it. However there is nothing to which the Government need object, subject to an amendment particularly to ensure that only uniformed police may stop vehicles on the highway.

The Second Reading debate unanimously supported the enactment of the whole Bill and the Committee will certainly reflect this. Particularly following last week's Select Committee Report on Toxic Waste, it would be politically unfortunate for the Government to vote down sterner enforcement powers for local authorities on waste.

I therefore propose that the Government should support Mrs Ruddock's proposals in principle and work to improve them by amendment in Committee. My officials will continue discussions with Home Office, Transport, Industry, Scots, Welsh and Lord Chancellor's officials to ensure that what emerges is acceptable.

I should be grateful for replies by 5 April so that the necessary amendments may be drafted ready for Committee stage.

I am copying this to members of L Committee, Paul Channon, David Young and to First Parliamentary Counsel.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Nicholas Ridley', written in dark ink.

NICHOLAS RIDLEY