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Date

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no pm

Jan Nick.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT ON TOXIC WASTE: GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Thank you for sending David Young a copy of your letter of 14 April to John Wakeham and the draft of the response to the Environment Committee's Report on Toxic Waste.

Your officials consulted mine on the preparation of the draft and I understand that some further textual changes have been agreed.

I note what you say about the consultation on the proposal to keep control of waste regulation with the local authorities - in contrast with the Committee's preference for a regional system as an interim measure prior to the introduction of the Environmental Protection Agency which they suggest.

I agree that the response to the Committee's report needs to be as robust and positive as possible. But equally we need to avoid any suggestion that the responses to consultation are not carefully considered before final decisions are made. I am aware that business views are mixed on where control of waste

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regulation should be located and my Department needs to consider the arguments further before taking a view. I therefore welcome the fact that your letter and the draft response leave the option open on this issue. On that basis, and taking account of the further textual amendments agreed by our officials I am content for the response to be published.

I am copying this letter to recipients of yours.

*over.
Tony*

TONY NEWTON



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