

CEPU



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street SW1P 3AG

1989

Miss Kate Bush
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 3EB

31 August 1989

Dear Kate

NEW POLLUTION CONTROLS - PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 18 August to Caroline Slocock enclosing a copy of the draft consultation paper on public access to pollution control information, which your Secretary of State intends to publish this week.

We are content for the paper to issue, but wish to register a few points on the resource implications section (paragraphs 24 and 25). This says that the proposal should add little to the costs of those firms which are subject to IPC. You may need to prepare a compliance cost assessment to inform Ministers' decisions. On the resource implications for the enforcing authorities arising from maintenance of registers, we note that the costs will be reflected in the proposed system of charging operators for authorisations. We are satisfied that charging a reasonable fee to a member of the public for a copy of a register qualifies as negative public expenditure and can therefore be offset against the cost. But it is less certain if income from charging operators for authorisation will in practice be treated as revenue or negative public expenditure, and this may need to be considered further before firm proposals are put to Ministers.

Copies of this letter go to the Private Secretaries to members of E(A), to Bob Peirce (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Colin Walters (Home Office), John Colston (Defence) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours

Camys Evan

MISS C EVANS
Private Secretary

ENV AFFAIRS: Acid
Ray
P+U

