

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

*CCPU*



HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT  
6 November 1989

*NBVM  
CPS 7/11*

*Dear Ms Bush*

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BILL:  
GENETICALLY MANIPULATED ORGANISMS

*at first*  
We discussed on the telephone your Secretary of State's letter of 1 November to the Lord President covering draft instructions to Parliamentary Counsel dealing with these provisions. I explained that while the former Home Secretary agreed in his letter of 16 October to the Lord President that these new arrangements should be underpinned by the criminal law, a number of points on the proposed criminal offences remain to be resolved between Department of Environment officials and our Criminal Policy Department. Our agreement to the section in the draft instructions dealing with criminal offences cannot be taken for granted.

Nevertheless, we understand the need for work to start on drafting the legislation as soon as possible, and we are content for the instructions to be sent to Parliamentary Counsel provided that it is clearly understood that the policy on criminal offences has not yet been agreed between our respective Departments, and that it cannot be assumed at this stage that we shall agree to the detailed proposals on criminal offences in the draft instructions. Paragraph 22(iv) of the draft, which anticipates the Home Office's agreement to what is proposed, will need some amendment to make it clear that the proposals are still under discussion.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister, members of 'H' Committee, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and Sir Robin Butler.

*Yours sincerely  
Sara Dent*

MS S J DENT

Ms C Bush  
Private Secretary  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON, SW1

ENV AFFAIRS: Acid Rain

P. 2

