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15 November 1989

NBTM
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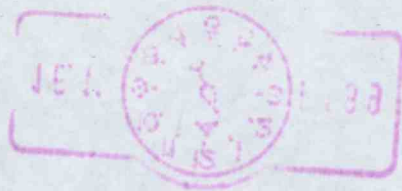
Dear Amir

Hay.

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 1st November to Geoffrey Howe about your proposals for including provisions on the release of genetically manipulated organisms in the forthcoming Environmental Protection Bill.

My officials have written to yours expressing concern about how the proposed legislation will relate to work being carried out at the Chemical Defence Establishment (CDE). CDE have a continuing need to carry out work which would fall within the ambit of the Bill, but for security reasons we would not wish the nature of that work to be disclosed. At present I do not believe that the draft Instructions to Parliamentary Counsel adequately address these concerns. I understand, however, that you are content for them to be taken into account in the drafting process. I should be grateful, therefore, if my officials could be kept fully informed as work on the Bill proceeds.

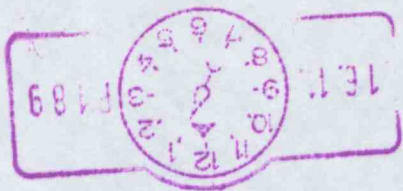
The Rt Hon Christopher Patten MP



I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of 'H' committee, John Gummer and to Sir Robin Butler.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Tom King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "K".

Tom King



Embroided

Alkins;

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