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Northern Ireland Office  
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Belfast BT4 3ST

NBPM

The Rt Hon Chris Patten MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON

24 November 1989

Dear Sir,

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

from PTH

At the Party Conference your announcement of the publication next Autumn of a White Paper on the Environment was enthusiastically received and I have since seen copies of replies from colleagues to your minute to the Prime Minister on this.

As a former Environment Minister in the Province you will know that overall environmental quality here is high. I am keen to ensure that there is no decline from existing standards and that improvements are made whenever possible. I welcome your initiative and since so many environmental matters can have an impact far beyond the local scene - acid rain, depletion of the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect immediately spring to mind - it would seem sensible for the White Paper to cover the whole of the UK.

It would be helpful if your officials would liaise with Mr Ian B McQuiston, Director of Environmental Protection, Department of the Environment, Calvert House, 23 Castle Place, Belfast, BT1 1FY, so that the Northern Ireland aspects can be included.

I am copying this letter to Cabinet colleagues and Sir Robin Butler.

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PB

ENW AFFAIRS : Aad Ram PTL