



OBM

SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

CEPH



The Rt Hon Chris Patten MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 3EB

30th November 1989

Dear Secretary of State,

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BILL: RECYCLING AND WASTE DISPOSAL PLANS

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 23 November to the Lord President. *at trap*

I fully support your proposals to highlight the important role which recycling should play in waste disposal and would wish similar provisions for Scotland to meet our rather different arrangements on waste.

In view of the vital role which waste management plans will assume in advancing the cause of recycling, I would like to suggest that Section 2(7) of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 (which gives a power to require waste management plans to be completed or revised by a specified date) should be restored. It was repealed by the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 as part of our de-regulation exercise at that time, but I now believe that the pendulum has swung back in favour of its re-instatement for the 1990s. That would certainly be helpful in the event of any local authorities dragging their heels and failing to revise their own plans to take recycling on board. I am keen to make this change for Scotland but I recognise that to do so in isolation might invite invidious comparisons with England and Wales. I think that it would be preferable for us to act jointly in this regard and I should be grateful if you would consider the point. If we act now, we may avoid lengthy debate in Committee on what is possibly one of our weaker points.

I am copying this to the PM, the Lord President, other members of H Committee and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely,
Len Wright

PP MALCOLM RIFKIND
(Approved by the Secretary of State and signed in his absence)

ENV AFFAIRS: Acid Rain
Pr 12

