



SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

cf no
NBPM AT 3/11

The Rt Hon Norman Tebbit MP
Secretary of State for Trade and
Industry
1 Victoria Street
LONDON

2 November 1983

Dear Norman,

Thank you for copying to me your minute of 21 October to the Prime Minister about the revision of the assisted area map.

I appreciate your difficulties over the availability of suitable TTWA data and it is clearly right that you should have explored other possible options as a basis for revision of the map. The use of local authority boundaries, for example, could produce fewer anomalies in Scotland than elsewhere and I am not convinced that the TTWA system is entirely suited to Scottish circumstances. I agree however that until we have explored fully the merits of alternative systems we should adhere to TTWAs, and on that basis I accept that it would be prudent to defer work on the review until the new TTWA boundaries are available, though the delay is regrettable, in that it will prolong uncertainty.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and the other recipients of your minute.

Yours sincerely,
George

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Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

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2 November 1983

David Heyhoe Esq
Private Secretary
Lord Privy Seal
Privy Council Office
Whitehall SW1

Dear David,

REGIONAL POLICY: LEGISLATION AND WHITE PAPER - TIMING

We spoke on the telephone earlier today about the discussion that had taken place yesterday afternoon between the Lord Privy Seal and my Secretary of State on this subject. In that discussion, the Lord Privy Seal said that he was prepared, in the light of my Secretary of State's explanation of the problems associated with delaying legislation until the revised Assisted Areas map became available, to agree to as rapid introduction of the regional legislation as was possible. He was therefore prepared to withdraw the reservation he had expressed in his letter of 31 October.

2 I am copying this letter, the contents of which we agreed between us, to Andrew Turnbull (No 10), to the Private Secretaries of other Members of E(A), to Murdo Maclean, to the Private Secretary of the First Parliamentary Council, and to Richard Hatfield.

Yours ever

Colin McCarthy

M C McCARTHY
Private Secretary

PP requested

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