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Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

7 December 1983

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1

D. P. L. k.

- will request if required

Thank you for your letter of 6 December. It is difficult to accept changes at this late stage.

2 I appreciate your difficulties over changes in Green Belt policy but, on the other hand, I consider we should claim credit for our efforts to ease planning procedures. I therefore propose to substitute the following words for the phrase to which you object:

"making the planning system more sensitive to changing needs".

As I am sure you will agree, this wording is more positive and is also in the spirit of the request made in the PS/Prime Minister's letter of 21 November.

3 We are already at a very late stage to be making further changes to the draft: I will not be able to make any changes after 11.00am on 8 December without jeopardising the target date of publication, 14 December, which the Prime Minister has approved (PS/Prime Minister's letter of 5 December). I do hope therefore that you will feel able to agree to my proposed redraft and I would be grateful if your office could contact mine to confirm this as soon as possible tomorrow morning.

4 I am copying this letter and yours to the Prime Minister, members of E(A), and Sir Robert Armstrong.

NORMAN TEBBIT

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