



*Handwritten initials*

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

TELEPHONE 01-218 9000  
DIRECT DIALLING 01-218 2111/3

MO 12/3

6th August 1984

*Handwritten signature*

*NBPM  
JR  
7/8*

FUTURE OF FISHERY PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS

Thank you for your letter of 18th July about the possible contracting out of the fishery protection task; I have since seen the comments of George Younger, Jim Prior and Peter Walker. The sort of changes you have in mind would mean a radical change in the arrangements agreed about 10 years ago, and would have major implications for both the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. But on the work you have carried out so far, I agree that this is an idea that needs further study to validate the assumptions and the proposals. Obviously we must try to find the most cost-effective arrangements for the range of tasks involved in the offshore tapestry, which I assume would also include possible contracting out of the Scottish Office-run fishery protection force. I would suggest that we remit the detailed work required to an inter-departmental group of officials under Cabinet Office chairmanship.

At this stage I would only like to make three general comments. First, as you and Peter Walker have recognised, we need to take full account of the protection of the offshore oil and gas installations and our ability to mount a maritime counter-terrorist operation if

The Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP





required, and we also need to ensure that clear command and control arrangements for the offshore tapestry are maintained. Second, we must ensure that any future arrangements reduce public expenditure and do not simply move costs from one department to another. Third, it is most important that any changes do not affect our general defence capabilities. That said I am sure we are right to be looking at the possibilities, and I look forward to seeing our officials' report.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Leon Brittan, Nigel Lawson, Jim Prior, Peter Walker, George Younger, Nicholas Edwards, Norman Tebbit and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours  
Michael Heseltine*

Michael Heseltine



Fishery limits: Fish, MD, P45.

7 MAR 1984

10 11 12 1  
9 2  
8 3  
7 4  
6 5





CNO

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH

From the  
Minister of State

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP  
Secretary of State for Defence  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2HB

*shp  
sub  
17/2*

17 August 1984

#### FUTURE OF FISHERY PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS

In Michael Jopling's absence, I am writing to thank you for your letter of 6 August from which I was glad to see that you agree that we should look further at the ideas set out in Michael's letter of 18 July.

I agree that it would be helpful if an inter-departmental group of officials under Cabinet Office chairmanship were to look at this, and I hope it will be possible for such a group to be set up - and to report - quickly. In the meantime, I would make only one further comment. In your letter, you stress that any changes should not affect our general defence capabilities, and that we should not simply move costs from one department to another. Whilst I can understand your concern particularly on the first count, my interest of course - apart from any operational advantages that may accrue from having a contracted-out fishery protection arrangement under my department's direct control - is to see that we do not bear an undue cost burden simply because the task happens to be carried out by the Services. However, these are questions which officials will doubtless cover in their report.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Leon Brittan, Nigel Lawson, Jim Prior, Peter Walker, George Younger, Nicholas Edwards, Norman Tebbit and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

JOHN MACGREGOR



Fishing Industry: Fishery Ltd A75





NBS PM

AT218

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP  
 Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
 Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
 Whitehall  
 LONDON SW1

1<sup>st</sup> August 1984

*John Michael*

**FUTURE OF FISHERY PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS**

I was interested to see the proposals in your letter of 18 July to Michael Heseltine for the civilianisation of fisheries protection arrangements. This is an unusual example of contracting out and one to which I am sure we must give serious consideration.

There are however two points which I should register. First, the Treasury must naturally look at the effect of any change in the present arrangements on the public sector as a whole: as you recognise, the change you propose could have important consequences for the Department of Energy. Second, I would need to be satisfied that the savings you have identified are realistic (from the point of view of the public sector as a whole) and can be delivered before taking credit for them in the Public Expenditure Survey.

I should therefore be grateful if Treasury officials could be involved in the interdepartmental discussion which will be required.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Secretaries of State for Industry, Energy, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the Secretary to the Cabinet.

*John Michael* *PR*

PETER REES



amp

fishery inc. AT

fishery units

2 AUG 1984

11 12 1  
2  
3  
e



RESTRICTED



CC NO  
NBBM  
AT 7/19

70 WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AS

01-233 8319

*From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service*

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. A084/2407

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

---

Future of Fishery Protection Arrangements

You sent me a copy of your letter of 18 July to the Defence Secretary about the possible civilianising and contracting out of the fishery protection task, and I have seen the subsequent correspondence.

2. The proposed inter-Departmental group of officials has already been set up to examine the issues in depth and to report. The group held its first meeting on 28 August, and is to report by mid-October, shortly before the start of the next Parliamentary session.

3. I am sending copies of this minute to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Northern Ireland, Energy, Defence, Trade and Industry, Scotland and Wales.

*Robert Armstrong*

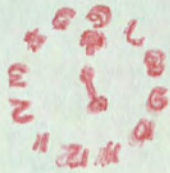
7 September 1984

RESTRICTED



Fishing Inc P.T.S

limits & Ad



--7 SEP 1984





~~CNO~~

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
1-19 VICTORIA STREET  
LONDON SW1H 0ET  
TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-215 5422  
SWITCHBOARD 01-215 7877

JF7164

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

10 August 1984

The Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP  
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries  
and Food  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries  
and Food  
Whitehall Place  
LONDON  
SW1A 2HH

*NBPm  
JR  
12/10*

*Dear Minister,*

FUTURE OF FISHERY PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS

I have seen a copy of your letter to Michael Heseltine of 18 July.

2 I should like to register an interest in the public procurement aspects of your proposals and in particular the interests of UK aircraft manufacturers. My officials have had discussions with yours regarding offshore aerial surveillance and I understand that any aircraft requirement which arises from your proposals will be put out to tender. It is clearly right that UK manufacturers should be given a fair opportunity to respond to such a tender which, as your officials recognise, will have to be compatible with our international obligations on public procurement, although there would be an outcry if foreign aircraft were selected as I believe your officials had in mind. I should be grateful if my officials could be involved in the inter-Departmental discussions which you propose should now take place.

3 Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Northern Ireland, Energy, Defence, Scotland and Wales and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Norman Tebbit*  
*A. Tebbit*

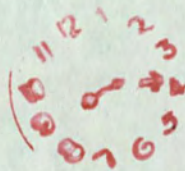
for NORMAN TEBBIT

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



Fishing for CFP P45

13 AUG 1984





cc 10

SECRETARY OF STATE  
TRAFFIC  
MILLS

NBPM

AT 31/7

01 211 6402

The Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP  
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food  
Whitehall Place  
London  
SW1A 2HH

31 July 1984

You sent me a copy of your letter of 18 July to Michael Heseltine setting out your case for civilianising and contracting out fishery protection work for England and Wales and suggesting that officials should get together to look at your proposals and related matters at an early date.

Although your letter considers the matter in terms of fishery protection you recognise rightly the interest of my Department in the use of the present MOD forces. John MacGregor wrote to Alick Buchanan-Smith last November with your preliminary thoughts on this subject. Alick pointed out the distinction to be drawn between your requirements and ours and emphasised that whatever arrangements are made to cover your interests must not result in any increase in the costs of protection of offshore oil and gas installations borne by my Department.

I certainly support the principle of aiming for an efficient and effective service. I agree then that my officials should join in whatever discussions are arranged. As you note we are reviewing our own requirements but the wider discussions need not be delayed on that account.

I am sending a copy of your letter and mine to Leon Brittan in view of his responsibility for dealing with any counter-terrorist action on any offshore oil or gas installation. Copies of this letter also go to the Prime Minister, Nigel Lawson, Jim Prior, Michael Heseltine, George Younger, Nicholas Edwards, Norman Tebbit and Sir Robert Armstrong.

PETER WALKER



Fishing Industry P.T.S

Fishing units





cc NO

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
WHITEHALL  
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR  
NORTHERN IRELAND

NBSPM  
AT 28/7

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP  
Secretary of State for Defence  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

27 July 1984

*Ken Richard*

I have seen a copy of Michael Jopling's letter of 18 July 1984 to you about the future of fishery protection arrangements.

Although the Navy fishery protection vessels concentrate their efforts mainly around England and Wales, they do also operate in waters off Northern Ireland and the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland contributes towards the capital costs of replacement vessels but not running costs. I have a direct interest therefore in seeking the most appropriate and economic means of providing the necessary protection. The review of the existing arrangements has shown that the current arrangements are expensive in relation to the task performed and that a civilian alternative is available which is more cost effective, produces public expenditure savings and is consistent with our present needs under the Common Fisheries Policy. I agree fully with Michael that there is a strong case for contracting-out fishery protection work and that officials from all the Departments concerned should study this option further.

Copies of this letter go to all recipients of Michael Jopling's letter of 18 July.

*Ken*  
*T*  
*Richard*



Fishing CTP Pts

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12

27 JUL 1984





## CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 5838

NO3602

22 August 1984

D H Griffiths Esq  
 Fisheries Department  
 Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food  
 Great Westminster House  
 Horseferry Road  
 London  
 SW1P 2AE

*WBP  
 dr*

*Ann Davison*

## INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GROUP ON THE FUTURE OF FISHERY PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS (FFPA)

Your Minister wrote to the Secretary of State for Defence on 18 July about the prospects for contracting out or 'civilianising' United Kingdom fishery protection arrangements. Other Ministers contributed to the correspondence, resting with Mr Macgregor's letter of 17 August to Mr Heseltine. A consensus in favour of setting up an inter-Departmental group of officials under Cabinet Office chairmanship has emerged and I am writing to set this in hand.

2. In the absence of many senior Cabinet Office officials, including Sir Robert Armstrong, I have not been able to consult as widely as I would have wished both on the proposal to create a group and on where responsibility for running it should fall within the Cabinet Office. However, on the basis of such consultation as has been possible, I am clear that a group is necessary and that the Oversea Policy and Defence Secretariat should take on the task. I therefore propose that:

- i. an inter-Departmental group on the future of fishery protection arrangements (FFPA) should be set up, with the suggested composition as at Annex. The OD Secretariat will service the meeting and I will take the chair. (It is possible that either Bryan Cartledge or David Jago, Deputy and Under Secretary respectively here, will wish to take on this task on their return from leave); and
- ii. the group should hold a first exploratory meeting at 10.30am on Tuesday 28 August in the Cabinet Office to discuss its remit and the shape of its report and set the necessary work in hand.

3. Unless notified to the contrary, I will assume that Departments are content and will be represented at the meeting. We are of course open to suggestions for additions or deletions to the suggested membership of the group. But I am sure you will agree that the important thing is to get down to business as soon as possible.

*Ann Davison*

D H COLVIN

cc Members of FFPA



## INTERDEPARTMENTAL GROUP ON FUTURE OF FISHERY PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS

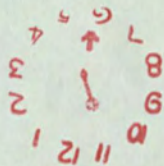
## Suggested composition:

D H Griffiths Esq	-	Fisheries Department - MAFF
Ms M Aldred	-	DS5 Division - MOD
B M Webster Esq	-	DS8 Division - MOD
R A Harrington Esq	-	F4 Division - Home Office
N Cowling Esq	-	ESL Division - NIO
J Murray Esq	-	DANI
B Gordon Esq	-	Fisheries Department - DAFS
L V McEwan Esq	-	" " - DAFS
G Owen Esq	-	Agriculture Department, Welsh Office
D A Bolger Esq	-	Air Division - DTI
R Beasley Esq	-	Branch 2, Establishments & Finance Division Department of Energy
I P Wilson Esq	-	DML Division, HMT

RESTRICTED



C7P7+5



22 AUG 1984