



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

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

1 April 1985

*Stan Michael*

*NBPM*

**TRANSFER OF COSTS OF EARLY RETIREMENT  
 TO DEPARTMENTAL VOTES**

*will request if required*

Thank you for your letter of 25 March about the implications for your programme of the changes in responsibility for the costs of early retirement which have recently been agreed at official level.

I proposed reductions in the provision for agricultural R and D and advisory services in last year's Survey because I considered that the direct beneficiaries should bear a higher proportion of the costs. Your officials are, I understand, now considering the scope and mechanisms for increased financial contributions from the agricultural industry, and that you expect to have a report on their conclusion by the beginning of June. At this stage we do not know whether reductions in staff numbers will be required.

If in due course you conclude that, in order to implement the Survey decisions, redundancies in your Department's staff would be required, I accept that this could create difficulties for you, as the changes in responsibility for the costs have been decided since the 1984 Survey. Our officials would need to consider whether the staff reductions could be met by natural wastage and reductions in recruitment, or whether other off-setting savings could be found. However, subject to these conditions, I would be prepared to consider sympathetically an adjustment to your programme in the forthcoming survey if this is necessary to meet the costs of redundancies.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Willie Whitelaw, George Younger, Douglas Hurd, other members of MISC 106, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Robin Nicholson.

*Peter Rees*

PETER REES



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02 APR 1988  
F. B. I.  
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