

Pine Mistle

PRIME MINISTER

Content to support the  
Home Secretary's proposal.

19 January 1990

Rec 6 19/1

Yes not

FUTURE OF IBA EXPERIMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT (ED) DEPARTMENT

Misc 128 made a firm decision last year that the IBA should be able to commission R&D work which was relevant to its statutory functions, but that it should not have an in-house R&D organisation. That part of the R&D Department which was commercially viable should be privatised and that part which was not, should be closed.

This decision recognised that in order for research to be commissioned, the ITC may still need to employ a few engineers, but they would not have an inhouse research facility.

The new proposal from the Home Office is that while part of the existing R&D function is clearly viable, part of it is not. If, however, it were to be restructured in a new business plan, it might conceivably be viable. The Home Secretary suggests that the IBA should be given the chance to restructure before selling. It seems a good idea.

Recommendation

Support the Home Secretary's proposal.

Yes not

Brian Griffiths

BRIAN GRIFFITHS