

file

cc: Nick Owen



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 October 1984

The Prime Minister has now seen the papers for H Committee on conveyancing circulated by the Lord Chancellor. She is concerned that the package of proposals set out in the papers may not be sufficient to keep the initiative in this important area of the Government's competition policy which was gained earlier this year. In particular she fears that the regulatory arrangements proposed by the Farrand Committee may inhibit rather than stimulate competition. Moreover, she wonders whether the safeguards proposed against conflict of interest affecting employed solicitors are necessary, given that there will be an identity of interest between the building society and its client in respect of the most important point, the claim to title. The Prime Minister very much hopes that H Committee can consider less elaborate ways of achieving the Government's objectives with a view to pressing ahead more quickly than is currently envisaged by the papers before the Committee.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of H Committee and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

(Timothy Flesher)

Miss Janet Lewis-Jones,
Lord President's Office

JS

Lawrencing.