



*a No*

*abp  
DMS  
25/10*

PRIME MINISTER

CONVEYANCING FOR REWARD

I have seen a copy of the minute which Peter Rees sent to you on 18 October.

I support his proposal for legislation to permit non-solicitor conveyancing. I agree with him that these additional safeguards are necessary to reduce the risk that the proposed Council for Licensed Conveyancers would foster "an inbred, inward-looking profession as restrictive as other professions with which we are familiar".

I also agree with the proposals for carrying forward consideration of legislation to permit employed solicitors to provide conveyancing services. Peter Rees is right in saying that employed solicitors would be the main potential source of competition. The responses to the consultation paper issued earlier this year show that further consideration is needed to prevent unacceptable conflicts of interest. But our aim must be to find a way through these difficulties, and I agree that officials should advise us how the difficulties revealed by the consultation could best be overcome.

I am copying this minute to other members of H Committee, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*PJ*

PJ

24 October 1984

LEGAL PROCEDURE: Conveyancing

NOV 83



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