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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 March 1985

Thank you for your letter of 4 March.

The Prime Minister has noted your Secretary of State's agreement that the statement on superstores can be deferred for the moment.

I look forward to receiving the report on the outcome of discussions with the Sainsbury Group in the near future.

(Mark Addison)

Alan Davis, Esq.,
Department of the Environment



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2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

Prime Minister.

My ref:

Your ref:

4 March 1985

Mr Jenkin
agrees to defer
a statement

4/3

ms

Dear Mark

SUPERSTORES AND PLANNING

David Barclay wrote to me on 27 February explaining that the Prime Minister would prefer any statement on superstores to be postponed until after the Government has considered the outcome of the discussions with the Sainsbury Group.

The Secretary of State explained the reasons for an earlier statement on superstores in his letter of 28 February to Lord Young (copied to him).

There are advantages and disadvantages either way. An early statement would be helpful to Inspectors and the Department in dealing with current cases (including perhaps those that are the subject of applications to the High Court for judicial review). But it is not essential, and we can clear the cases as soon as they are ready for decision. If the statement is deferred and it is decided to issue new general policy guidance on the lines envisaged by the Sainsbury Group, then the statement on superstores can conveniently follow in its wake - but at some distance since it would be unfortunate if it appeared that the general circular was simply paving the way for superstores.

The Secretary of State therefore agrees that a statement on superstores can be deferred for the present. The Department has completed discussions with the Sainsbury Group and a report on the outcome will be submitted to the Secretary of State within the next few days. Mr Jenkin has arranged to meet the Group to discuss the report on 15 March and will then forward it to the Prime Minister. I understand that all the Group's proposals have led to positive conclusions with the exception of three or four which the Group decided they did not wish to pursue.

I am sending copies of this letter to those who have received copies of David Barclay's.

Your ever
Alan Davis

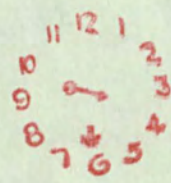
A H DAVIS
Private Secretary

Mark Addison Esq

LOCAL GOVT: Ranuip

July 83

1985



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CCND



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

28 February 1985

Dear David,

SUPERSTORES AND PLANNING

Thank you for your letter about my proposed statement on superstores and planning.

The reference to competition is a literal quotation from the existing guidance. The full sentence is as follows:

"Indeed, although it is not the function of land use planning to prevent or stimulate competition among retailers or among methods of retailing, nor to preserve existing commercial interests as such, it must take into account the benefits to the public which flow from new developments in the distributive and retailing fields."

That seems to me a good statement and I quote it in full in my statement ("field" in the draft should read "fields"). I think that it is better to reaffirm it than to tinker with it.

As you recognise, there are good reasons for separating a statement on superstores from any more general policy statement that may result from discussions with the Sainsbury Group. The statement on superstores would best follow on the general statement, but we are not likely to be ready with the latter for a month or so, whereas there are many superstore developments in the pipeline and we need to restate policy on this as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours ever
Patrick

PATRICK JENKIN

The Rt Hon the Lord Young of Graffham

LOCAL GOVT

Planning July 83

-1 MAR 1985

