

CONFIDENTIAL

with MBEA 2/13

MPBM.  
hold over briefing.  
for meeting 22/4

PRIME MINISTER

20 March 1985

SAINSBURY GROUP'S PROPOSALS

This Report is swimming in the right direction in the right pool, but is most unlikely to reach the other end without your propulsion.

The presumption in favour of planning permission and the down-grading of structure plans in the draft circular (Annex A) are excellent proposals, but are unlikely noticeably to change the conduct of County Planning Officers.

The legislation contemplated in the Conclusion, page 15, will have much more effect than the circular, and we therefore recommend that:

1. The circular be issued with a statement that legislation may be necessary unless planning delays and obstacles are reduced.

This may give just a little more force to yet another circular to pad Chief Officers' files.

2. The circular could also lay down some target times for considering:

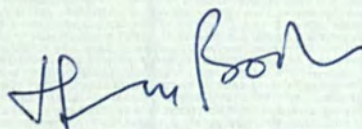
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- a. a simple planning application decided by officers;
- b. a complex one that goes to members;
- c. an appeal against principle;
- d. a negotiation over detailed objections.

Sainsbury was argued out of these sensible proposals.

3. Time and money would be saved with better quality Inspectors, and the reading of written reports outside the tribunal not from the witness table (the Sizewell Enquiry would have been 6 months shorter with that rule!).
4. If the circular is ineffective and legislation is necessary, the abolition - or at least the statutory downgrading of structure plans - can be pursued.



HARTLEY BOOTH

CONFIDENTIAL