



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

12 March 1984

Dear John,

12/3

CO-ORDINATION OF THE PRESENTATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY:
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

I understand it was the Treasury which first enquired about the problem which has arisen with Parliamentary Questions in the House of Commons since the Lord Privy Seal ceased to exercise responsibility for the co-ordination of Government policy and its presentation.

In January Mr Anthony Nelson MP asked the Lord Privy Seal if he was satisfied with the co-ordination of information on economic and industrial progress. The Question was, by agreement, transferred to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Lord President has asked that similar questions in the future should also be transferred to the Minister most closely identified with the subject mentioned in the Question. The Prime Minister will continue to deal with such Questions put direct to her.

If we in this office can ever help with material for Supplementary Questions on the presentation of policy, we will of course gladly do so. But I should emphasise that the Lord President has no responsibility for the co-ordination of information; his new responsibility is mainly to give informal advice and guidance on the presentational aspects of the policy decisions of the Government as a whole or sometimes, if they have wider implications, of individual Departments.

Chief Information Officers have been informed of this arrangement.

I am sending copies of this letter to Tim Flesher and Bernard Ingham in No 10 and to all Parliamentary Clerks.

*Yours sincerely,
Janet Lewis-Jones*

JANET A LEWIS-JONES
Private Secretary

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Parliamentary Clerk
HM Treasury

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