



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-212 3434

My ref:  
Your ref:

LP June 1984

*Dear Prime Minister, MP*

Prime Minister<sup>(2)</sup>

*To note.*

*JMB  
29/6*

**MARLBOROUGH HOUSE**

When you visited the Property Services Agency recently to look at the furniture and fittings proposed for the new International Conference Centre, you also asked about Marlborough House.

Because of the importance they attach to their links with Marlborough House, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation were initially reluctant to vacate the building totally. They have, however, now accepted that the nature and extent of the renovation work would make it neither practical nor desirable to remain in occupation whilst it is in progress. They have accordingly agreed to move out of Marlborough House when suitable alternative accommodation can be made available.

Two possibilities have been identified and a detailed survey of each building by representatives of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Foundation and PSA is currently in hand. The survey reports and relevant cost information are expected to be ready in July. Meanwhile, the Commonwealth Secretariat have been working out how their organisation could be made to fit into either of these buildings.

A Steering Committee of PSA, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation has been established to ensure that all arrangements are properly planned and co-ordinated. PSA are making ready for external work to start on Marlborough House just as soon as the building is vacated.

A copy of this letter goes to Sir Geoffrey Howe and Sir Peter Marshall.

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*

SIR GEORGE YOUNG

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP



JR

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

2 July 1984

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE

The Prime Minister was grateful for Sir George Young's letter of 28 June about Marlborough House, which she has noted with interest.

I am sending copies of this letter to Peter Ricketts (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and to Sir Peter Marshall.

(DAVID BARCLAY)

Trevor Beattie, Esq.,  
Department of the Environment.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Trevor Beattie'.