

*CBP*

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

19 February 1986

The Rt. Hon. Peter Walker MBE MP
Secretary of State for Energy

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Walker'.

CBP

NCB'S BUSINESS NAME

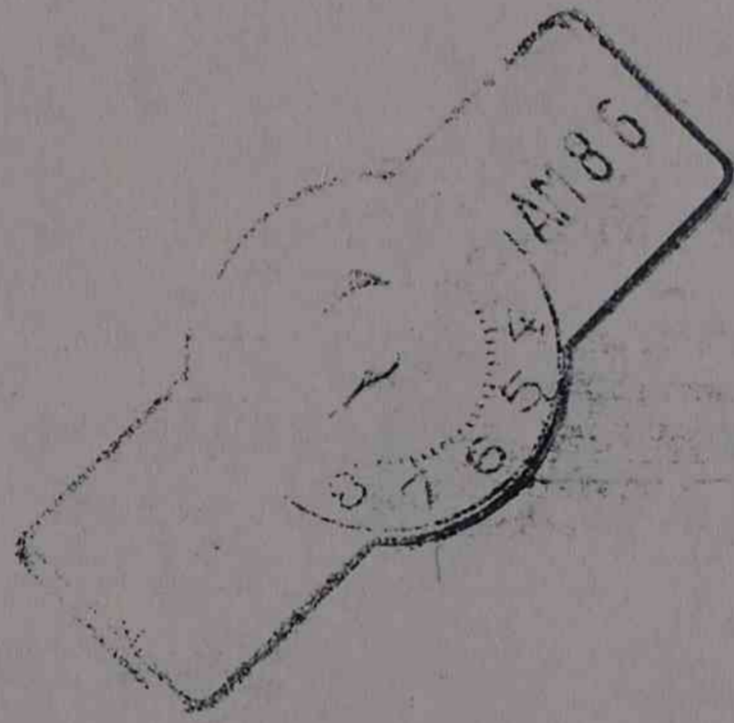
Thank you for your letter of 13 February supporting Ian MacGregor's suggestion that the NCB might adopt the name "British Coal". This can clearly do no harm, and might even do some good.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Willie Whitelaw and Paul Channon, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

NIGEL LAWSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Lawson'.

NAT IND : Coal : PC 19



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Prime Minister²

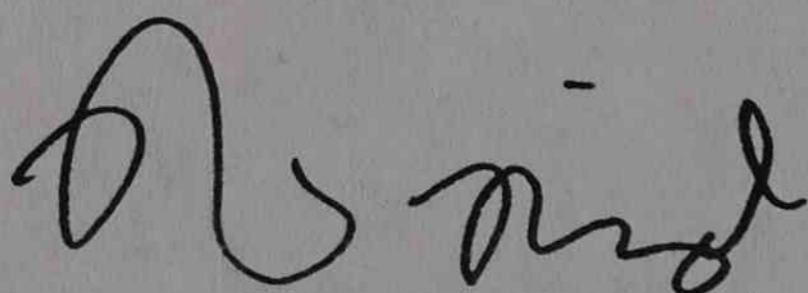
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The Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP
 Chancellor of the Exchequer
 HM Treasury
 Parliament Street
 LONDON
 SW1P 3AG

13 February 1986

ms



NCB'S BUSINESS NAME

Ian MacGregor has sought my support for the Board's proposal to adopt the business name "British Coal", a style which the Board are already using for marketing purposes.

The Board see the proposed change as helping to modernise the industry's image and as signalling a break with the past. They would like to announce their intention in late April when they announce good provisional results for 1985/86. They naturally envisage my wishing to inform Parliament, and hope that I shall also be prepared to say that the Government envisages legislation in due course to change the NCB's statutory name to "British Coal Corporation". The Board are well aware of the necessary steps towards a change of business name, including checking the Companies Register.

I see the Board's proposals for a new business name as having clear commercial and motivational attractions. A change of trading name, for which there are many precedents in the public and private sectors, is within the Board's discretion. I strongly support the proposal, and have given the Board a very sympathetic initial reaction.

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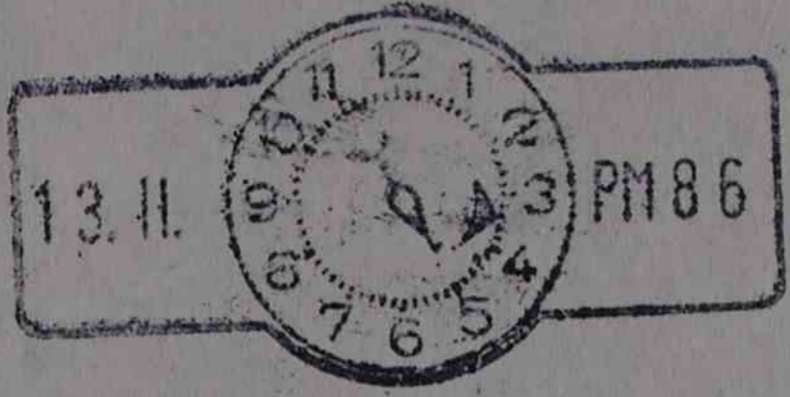
Once this change goes through, it would make sense to bring the industry's trading and statutory names into line. I should be glad to know your views on this. The Board would like to see appropriate amending legislation included in this Autumn's Coal Industry Bill, although obviously we will need to be clearer on the likely shape of this autumn's Bill and any timetabling constraints, before agreeing to include such provisions.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, William Whitelaw, Paul Channon and Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Walker', is written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

PETER WALKER

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Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
1-19 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0ET

Telephone (Direct dialling) 01-215 5422
GTN 215
(Switchboard) 01-215 7877

cc/bb

21 February 1986

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The Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
Parliament Street
London
SW1P 3AG

NLS

Dear Nigel,

Peter Walker copied to me his letter of 13 February to you about the NCB's proposal to adopt the business name "British Coal" and, subject to legislation, to change its statutory name to "British Coal Corporation".

As you know, there are limitations on the use of the word "British" in business and company names, but the present case is clearly one where I can give my formal approval without further enquiry.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, Willie Whitelaw, Peter Walker and Sir Robert Armstrong.

[Handwritten signature]

Paul

PAUL CHANNON

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BOARD OF TRADE
BICENTENARY

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