



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

John Mogg Esq
Private Secretary to
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
Department of Trade and Industry
1 - 19 Victoria Street
London SW1

NBPN

Dear John,

9 May 1986

**NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES: ACCOUNTING FOR ECONOMIC
COSTS AND CHANGING PRICES**

^{at 11AP}
You will be aware that the Chief Secretary has not replied to your letter of 17 March, or to other colleagues' letters on this subject. The publication of the report was held up by agreement to allow the NICG to see it and they could not take the item until their meeting today.

Press speculation about the Report has now stimulated Tim Smith, to put down a Priority Written PQ for 12 May.

"To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, why the report to the Treasury by an advisory group, accounting for economic costs and changing prices, completed in March 1986 has not been published."

The Chief Secretary's proposed reply is

"This substantial report on accounting in nationalised industries was completed at the end of March. It is being considered by Ministers, and will be published in due course."

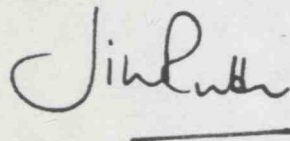
You will note that this makes no commitment on the form or timing of publication, but the existence of the Byatt Group has never been concealed and its members as well as outsiders have every reason

to expect such an important piece of technical work to be published. To deny publication would quite unnecessarily raise the political profile of the document and too many copies are in circulation anyway - Tim Smith may well have a copy already.

As soon as the Chief Secretary has had the initial reactions of the NICG he will write further to you and to other Ministers with his proposals on the timing of publication and the presentation of the report.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister, other E(NI) members and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,



JILL RUTTER
Private Secretary

