



From the Minister of State for Industry

→TF

CC 110

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

Telephone (Direct dialling) 01-215) 5186  
GTN 215) .....  
(Switchboard) 215 7877

Norman Lamont MP

The Rt Hon John Biffen MP  
Lord Privy Seal  
Privy Council Office  
Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2AT

W 21/11  
21 November 1984

*John Biffen*

As you know, I am due to make a statement next week about our new regional policy and will lay the necessary Orders at that time. I would expect the Opposition to press for a major debate on Regional Policy - a debate which, given the interests of so many MPs, particularly in the assisted area map, we should find very difficult to resist. I was in fact pressed hard, both at Second and Third Reading of the Cooperative Development Agency and Industrial Development Bill, to concede that there would be such a debate: I did of course not do so though I think the case for such a debate is strong.

Four Orders need to be laid. There is a Commencement Order, which brings into force Part II of the CDA/ID Act (the new RDG Scheme) and contains transitional and "anti-windfall" provisions. This is not subject to Parliamentary procedure. There is an Order which brings in the new map of the Assisted Areas, and is subject to the negative resolution procedure. There is an Order which specifies the activities to which a project must relate to be eligible for new RDG, and this is also subject to the negative resolution procedure. Finally, there is an Order which specifies the percentage rate of capital grant, the amount of job grant, and the grant-per-job limit. This Order will, like the others, come into force at midnight after it is laid, but will lapse unless within a period of forty days (excluding any period in which Parliament is dissolved, prorogued or adjourned for more than four days) it is approved by affirmative resolution in both Houses.

There will in any event need to be a debate on the Order relating to rates of grant since it is subject to the affirmative procedure. I would expect that, if we do not provide for a more general

WEDAIU



debate, the Opposition will also pray against the Order containing the list of assisted areas in order to have a debate on the map.

In these circumstances, I believe it would be desirable if I were to say next week that we would provide time for a debate on Regional Policy - a debate which I suggest should be taken with the Orders so as to avoid further debate on them. I doubt whether a debate in the House of Lords would also be required, other than as necessary for the Orders, but you and Willie Whitelaw may have views on this.

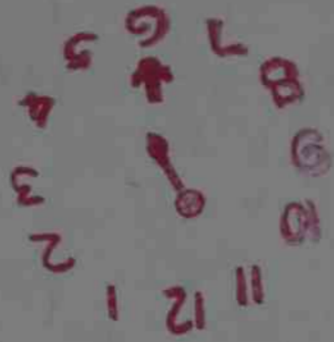
If you agree that this is the right way to proceed, I would suggest that we should try to find time for it before the Christmas Recess.

In the circumstances I should be grateful for an early response.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord President, the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales and to the Chief Whip.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Norman Lamont'.

NORMAN LAMONT



21 NOV 1984

21 NOV 1984

(6)

010

TF

cc 100



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

Telephone (Direct dialling) 01-215  
GTN 215) .....5186  
(Switchboard) 215 7877

From the Minister of State for Industry

Norman Lamont MP

Murdo Maclean Esq  
Private Secretary to  
The Rt Hon John Wakeham MP  
Government Chief Whip  
12 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

15 January 1985

Dear Murdo

**REGIONAL POLICY DEBATE: GOVERNMENT MOTION**

I promised to let you have the terms of a Government motion for the regional policy debate this Thursday afternoon (17 January). The following is acceptable to Ministers here and has been cleared with Andrew Turnbull at No.10 and with the Chief Secretary's Office: I have also discussed it with David Morris in the Lord Privy Seal's office, who was content for it to be copied to him quickly without formal clearance by the Lord Privy Seal, given its clearance by others:-

"This House takes note of the Government's statement on 28 November announcing changes in regional industrial incentives; welcomes the closer alignment of the new Assisted Areas map to areas' relative needs for increased employment opportunities; agrees that it is right at a time of high unemployment to relate assistance more directly to jobs; and notes with approval that the increased cost-effectiveness of regional assistance will enable the burden upon taxpayers to be substantially reduced."

I am copying this letter to Andrew Turnbull (No.10), Richard Broadbent (Chief Secretary's Office) and David Morris (Lord Privy Seal's Office).

*Yours sincerely*

*Edmund Hosker*

EDMUND HOSKER  
Private Secretary

TUEANE



115 JAN 1985



→ J.F.

NBPM AT 27/11

~~CCND~~

FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
HOUSE OF LORDS

N  
27/11

26 November 1984

Dear Norman

~~W.M. AT~~

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 21 November to John Biffen about regional policy.

You suggest in your letter that it would be desirable for you to be able to say that the Government would provide time for a debate in the House of Commons on regional policy, and you raise the question whether a debate in the House of Lords would also be required. I have consulted Bertie Denham on this point, and we think that the Opposition are likely to be content with the debate on the Order specifying the percentage rate of capital grant. Any request for a wider debate could, we think, be met by arranging an Unstarred Question.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Privy Seal, the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales and the acting Chief Whip.

*John*  
*Lamont*

WHITELAW

Norman Lamont Esq MP  
Minister of State  
Department of Trade and Industry

27 NOV 1984

11 12  
10 9 8 7 6

Regional for P7  
Review