



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CH MC
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AT

N.B.M.

28 January 1986

Dear Willie,

URBAN REGENERATION GRANT

FILE WITH DRN

Nicholas Edwards wrote to you on 17 January and Malcolm Rifkind wrote to Kenneth Baker on 21 January seeking colleagues agreement that the new power to give grants to the private sector for inner city regeneration, to be included in the Housing and Planning Bill, should be extended to, respectively, Wales and Scotland.

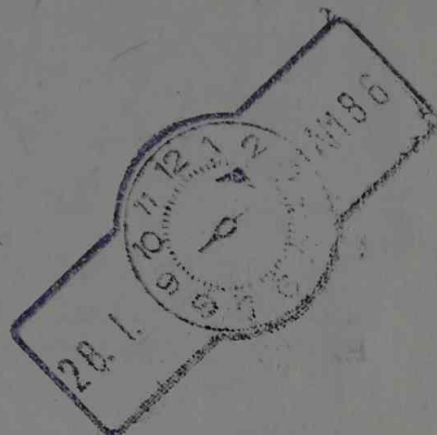
I am content to agree to this. The uses to which the new power will be put is a separate question. I trust that Nicholas and Malcolm will ensure that the Treasury is fully consulted.

I am copying this letter to the members of MISC 104, the Lord Privy Seal and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours,
JH

JOHN MacGREGOR

REGIONAL POL
INNER CITIES
PT 7





SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

CAB

The Rt Hon Kenneth Baker MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 3EB

NBP

21 January 1986

Dear Ken,

URBAN POLICY: PROPOSED NEW POWER

MISC 104 (85) 1st Mtg. ^{attached}
MISC 104 approved on 10 December your proposal to take new statutory powers to enable financial assistance to be given to private sector development activities. The proposed new power will be included in the Housing and Planning Bill which is to be considered in L Committee on 22 January.

At MISC 104 George Younger indicated that such a new power was unnecessary for Scotland, because of the existing powers of the Scottish Development Agency. We have however been giving further consideration to the implications and have concluded that as a prudent option for the future we should like the new power to be extended to Scotland also.

Like you, I can confirm that any new initiative taken under this power in Scotland should be funded from within existing resources; and that no net staffing increases would be required.

Given the legislative timetable, I should be grateful for colleagues' early agreement that this power should be extended to Scotland. Nick Edwards has written similarly for Wales.

I am sending copies of this letter to members of MISC 104, the Lord Privy Seal and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,
C. Hill



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From The Secretary of State for Wales

The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP

17 January 1986

John Williams

will request if req

I have seen a copy of Kenneth Baker's letter of 6 January seeking your agreement to the inclusion in the Housing and Planning Bill of the new power to give financial assistance to private sector development activities.

In the final paragraph of his letter, Kenneth envisages that the new power would also be available in Wales. I can confirm that I would wish this to be so. Urban renewal mechanisms - in particular, the Urban Programme and the Urban Development Grant scheme - in Wales are very similar to those in England and the proposed new power would be of particular value to me in my efforts to stimulate urban renewal in areas such as the South Cardiff docklands. I hope therefore that you will be able to include the necessary provision in the Bill, as requested in Kenneth's letter.

/ I am sending copies of this letter to Kenneth Baker, John Biffen, John Wakeham, John MacGregor and Sir Robert Armstrong. I am also sending copies to the Prime Minister and the other members of MISC 104, since the availability of the new power in Wales was not, I believe, specifically agreed at the meeting on 19 December. I cannot imagine that colleagues would have any objection to the power being available in Wales, but I think they would wish to be aware of it.

*✓ am
Nick*

NBPN.

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CH MC MP
Lord President of the Council

