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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 July 1986

Dear Lady Platt.

Many thanks for your letter of 26 June. I am glad you enjoyed our discussion as much as I did. It was kind of you to let me have, as you promised, a list of names of women who might be suitable for public appointments and I shall certainly see that the lists are considered through the appropriate channels.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Baroness Platt of Writtle, CBE.

OP

APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE *File VC*



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

1 July 1986

When the Prime Minister saw Lady Platt, Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, recently, Lady Platt said she would provide a list of names of suitable women who might be considered for public appointments. She has now done so, and I enclose a copy of her letter and the attached lists which I should be grateful if you would make available through the appropriate channels.

I am also sending a copy of this letter to William Fittall in the Home Office.

(MARK ADDISON)

Michael Stark, Esq.,
Cabinet Office.

APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE

R30/b

Equal Opportunities Commission
Overseas House
Quay Street Manchester M3 3HN

Telephone 061-833 9244



Equal
Opportunities
Commission

From The Baroness Platt of Writtle,
C.B.E., D.L., M.A., C.Eng., Hon.D.Sc.,
F.R.Ae.S., Hon.F.I.Mech.E.

Chairman.

BP/MB

26 June 1986

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for so kindly seeing me. I very much enjoyed our discussion, and hope it was of value to you.

I am encouraged that you would like more names of women suitable for appointment in public life, and I know the Women's Organisations are very much heartened by your interest, as they too want to see more capable women involved in national decision making bodies.

Naturally the names I put forward are not people I know very well and I do not necessarily know their political allegiance. They are women who have achieved prominence in public life for various reasons often via election by other women. The fact that they are trusted in fields of voluntary work is a matter of importance. If they were not sensible and efficient their fellow members would not elevate them to national office. I am sure you have other means of checking their suitability for the particular vacancies you may wish to fill.

I append several lists.

- 1] The list I sent you two years ago [for reference]
- 2] This list updated where there has been change, and with added names
- 3] A list of names put forward by Mrs June O'Dell newly appointed Deputy Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission whose opinion I trust, and who has worked with these women during her time as UK President of the Business & Professional Women's Clubs.
- 4] A list of women recently awarded merit certificates by the British Federation of University Women for their outstanding contribution in public life, put forward by their fellow members in the Regions. I do not know them but was impressed by their record.

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The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP

I know you like women's names with strong commercial and administrative experience and I feel I have not produced enough of those sort of people. I was present at a meeting convened by the Institute of Directors, when they received an excellent response from women who run their own businesses. They have since been recruiting women members, and may, therefore, now be an excellent source of names of women with management and financial expertise. Also the British Institute of Management and Women in Management both recruit similar members.

Even in a full life my capacity for putting forward suitable names is limited. When we published our EOC report on "Women in Public Life", at the same time as writing to Government Ministers to encourage their appointment, I wrote to women's organisations strongly urging them to put forward suitable women's names. I am glad to say that that development has gathered momentum and the Women's National Commission and others are taking positive steps to put forward names. I know the Public Appointments Unit is also actively seeking women's names and receiving them. Professionally qualified and expert women are gradually moving up the promotion ladders, but it is bound to be a slow process! I hope all these sources will enable you to find the sort of names you want.

I mentioned the Engineering Council's Career Break Working Party report which I believe would form a useful model for other fields where professional women are employed in large numbers, such as the Health Service, the Education Service, or in law and accountancy, and have enclosed a copy. We cannot afford to lose the substantial public and private investment made in the education and training of those valuable women. With adjustment on both sides leading employers have been able to make arrangements which are both commercially viable and convenient to employers and employees, and thus retained the services of a vital part of their workforce.

May I thank you most sincerely for your help and encouragement.

Yours sincerely

Platt

Baroness Platt of Writtle

PRIME MINISTER LIST 1

Mrs Valerie Boakes	Group Commodity Adviser Napier & Brown Limited
Mrs Jean Denton	Managing Director Herondrive
Mrs Julia Cleverdon	The Industrial Society
Mrs June O'Dell	National President Business & Professional Women's Clubs Estate Agent
Mrs Nancy Catchpole	Co-Chairman, Women's National Commission
Miss Audrey Head (home)	Chairman Unit Trusts Association "West Chantry", 4 Clifford Manor Road, GUILDFORD, Surrey, GU4 8AG
Mrs Judith Walpole (recently re-married)	Vice-Chairman Association of County Councils Education Committee Chartered Accountant
Dr Barbara Marsh	Chairman Shropshire Education Committee Chemist
Mrs Stephanie Shirley	Managing Director F International Ltd.
Mrs Penny Hutley	Financial Director F International Ltd.
Miss Diana Rookledge	Personnel Officer Marks & Spencer plc
Miss Eileen Cole	Head of Market Research Unilever
Mrs Emily Blatch	Leader Cambridgeshire County Council
Mrs Barbara Calvert QC	Head of her own Chambers (home) 158 Ashley Gardens, London SW1P 1HW

Miss Detta O'Cathain, OBE, BA Milk Marketing Board

Mrs Anne Harris Chairman
National Federation of Women's Institutes

Mrs Janet Ramsden Chairman
National Union of Townswomen's Guilds

Dr Jean Scott President
Medical Women's Federation

Mrs Jean Viall President
National Council of Women of Great Britain

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Mrs Valerie Boakes	Group Commodity Adviser Napier & Brown Ltd Chairman Women in Management
Mrs Jean Denton	Marketing Director, Austin Rover (Just been appointed to Engineering Council and another public body so may not have time)
Mrs Nancy Catchpole	Former Co-Chairman Women's National Commission and now working for them part-time. Actively wants to do more (Vice Chairman Women's Committee Industry Year)
Mrs Joanne Foster	Head, Pepperell Unit Industrial Society
Miss Elizabeth Willis	Deputy, Pepperell Unit Industrial Society
Caroline Doig	Last Year's President Women's Medical Federation Consultant
Dr Beulah Bewley	President Women's Medical Federation 
Mrs Mary Mayne	Chairman, National Council for Women
Mrs Sara Morrison	Director GEC
Sandra Chalmers	Womens Hour
Dr Margaret Sprackling	President Nottingham Medical Chirurgical Society (Mixed) Geriatric Consultant
Mrs Lynda Maynard	President Womens Engineering Society Chartered Engineer North West Gas
Miss Gina Dodds	NEI Parsons Newcastle Senior Transmission Engineer
Dr Ann Robinson	Lecturer Cardiff University Former MEP Candidate Former Commissioner EOC

Mrs Joanna Kennedy	Senior Engineer Ove Aarup Former member Engineering Council
Professor Daphne Jackson	Professor of Physics Surrey University
Sheila Innes	Controller Education Broadcasting BBC
Mrs Eleanor Wallis	Logica Systems Analyst
Miss Patricia Hodgson	Secretary BBC
Mrs Heather Brigstocke	High Mistress St Pauls Girls School
Dr Elizabeth Sadler	Senior Engineer Ove Aarup Member of Finniston Committee
Mrs Sheila Needham	Managing Director Needham Printers
Mrs Vivienne Rubenstein	President, British Federation University Women
Mrs Kate Wedd	President Bristol Branch BFUW Former Headmistress King John Comprehensive School (Benfleet Essex)
Mrs Joan Martin	Essex County Councillor Former Chairman Social Services Committee Chairman District Health Authority
Dr Barbara Marsh	Former Vice Chairman Shropshire County Council Chemist
Professor Valery Bowell	Science & Engineering Research Council Head of Nuclear Desk
Mrs Rosemary Brown	Commissioner EOC Founder and Managing Director Enterprise Dynamics
Mrs Pauline Matthias	Former President Girls School Association

PRIME MINISTER LIST 3

Mrs Judith Viall

Former President NCW

Mrs Sylvia Perry

Project Controller Post Office Building
Schemes.
Head of Group Building & Estates
SW Postal Region

Mrs Wendy Hogg

Vice President International Business &
Professional Women's Clubs
UK Federation of Business & Professional
President

Mrs Pat Lunn

Mayor of Bakewell
Past Vice President UK Federation of
Business & Professional Women's Clubs

Mrs Margaret Williams

Chairman Constitutional Resolutions
Committee
UK Federation of Business & Professional
Womens Clubs

Mrs Vivienne Flower

Director "Kate's Kitchen"

Mrs Irene Tunstall-Dunne

Past Mayor of Watford
Director of firm exporting heavy
transport equipment.

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WOMEN IN LOCAL PUBLIC LIFE

LUNCHEON - 19TH JUNE 1986

Guest of Honour: Baroness Platt of Writtle
Chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission

Guests nominated by Local Associations:

Mrs Caroline Bullen - Potters Bar

8 years on Hertsmere District Council - Deputy Mayor
Founded two local societies for mentally handicapped
SW Herts. Health Authority, Vice Chairman CHC

Mrs Marjorie Carpenter - Sutton Coldfield

Woman's League of Health and Beauty
Chaired Sutton Coldfield Sports and Recreation Council
Citizens' Advice Bureau Organiser
Borough Councillor - Mayor

Dr Jean Clark MBE - Worcestershire

Chairman - Worcestershire Association for Disabled People
Former Community Health Council - Chairman
Worcestershire District Health Authority
Serves on many organisations for the disabled

Mrs Lilian Grewar

Scottish Chairman, Family Planning Association
Honorary Sheriff of Perthshire
Layside Health Board
Member of special committee of General Assembly of Church
of Scotland

Mrs Eva Harrison - Shropshire

Left school at 14 to become seamstress in local factory
Campaigned for nursery education provision
Shropshire County Councillor - County Education Committee
Chairman of Wrekin District Council

Mrs Joan Heath - Hampton and Richmond

Vice-President BFUW 1970-73. Chairman of Crosby Hall Governors
Represented BFUW on Women's National Commission
Richmond Council of Voluntary Service
Richmond-upon-Thames Councillor 1978-86

Professor Daphne Jackson - West Surrey

Professor of Physics, Dean of Faculty of Science - University
of Surrey
Immediate Past President, Women's Engineering Society
District Health Authority, Scientific and Research Committee
Regional Health Authority
Physics Committees of SERC and UGC

Mrs Sheila Lockhead - Swansea

Daughter of Ramsay MacDonald - acted as hostess at No. 10
Prison Council of Voluntary Service, Richmond Fellowship
Magistrate - Central Committee of Magistrates
Royal Commonwealth Society Committee

P4747.

Mrs Hazel McCabe - Canterbury

Parish and Canterbury City Councillor - Mayqr
SE Region National Housing and Town Planning Council
Member of Council for Protection of Rural England

Mrs Joan Mackintosh CBE - Dundee

Lay Observer for Scotland
Chairman of Council, Insurance Ombudsman Bureau
CAB Organiser
Royal Commission on Legal Services in Scotland
Chairman Scottish Consumer Council

Miss Flora Murray OBE - Lincoln

Director, Rural Community Council for Lindsey
County Chairman, Age Concern
CAB President
Chairman of Council, Lincoln Civic Trust

Mrs Audrey O'Dell MBE - Hull

National Children's Home staff training
Founder director of Hull Samaritans; Chairman NE Region,
National Vice-Chairman
Chairman NE Region NCW
UNA Executive Committee. Marriage guidance counsellor

Mrs Janet Todd - Oxford

Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, former
Lord Mayor
Campaigner for retention of single-sex schools
Executive Secretary IFUW - 1972