



DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

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PS/ Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

CONFIDENTIAL

23 March 1987

Mark Addison Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

DTI - joined no objection
CDP 243

Dear Mark,

WESTLAND

We spoke this morning about the Government response to the recently published further report by the Select Committee on Trade and Industry on Westland.

My Secretary of State intends to respond for the Government simply by means of the attached letter to the Chairman of the Committee. MOD and Cabinet Office are content with this.

I would be grateful to know if you see any difficulties with this approach. My Secretary of State would like if at all possible to write to Mr Warren tomorrow, since several questions about the timing of the Government response have been tabled for Trade and Industry first orders on 25 March.

I am copying this letter and attachment to Ian Andrews (MOD) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,
Michael

MICHAEL GILBERTSON
Private Secretary

JGLAWO



Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

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March 1987

Kenneth Warren Esq MP
Chairman of the
Select Committee on Trade and Industry
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Dear Kenneth.

I am writing in reply to the Committee's Second Report for the Session 1986-87 on Westland plc which was published on 10 March.

The Government has carefully considered the comments made by the Committee, and is of the opinion that the point at paragraph 14 was fully answered in its response to the Defence Committee report on Westland in Command Paper 9916. I do not propose, therefore, to add anything further on this point.

On the recommendation at paragraph 20 the Companies Act provisions on disclosure of material interests are being examined by those undertaking the review of the operations of the Take-over Panel which I announced to the House on 28 January. I hope that the review will be complete in April and I will inform the House of the Government's conclusions in due course. It is too early to say what proposals the review will make on company law, but the views of the Select Committee are being considered very carefully.

*Yours,
Paul*

PAUL CHANNON

JF5BUQ