



JF46 42

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

REGIONAL POLICY : LEGISLATION AND WHITE PAPER - TIMING

Your Private Secretary's letter of 24 ~~October~~ records your agreement to my announcing at NEDC on 2 November our intention to publish a White Paper provided that publication will follow soon thereafter. It also asked for a note bringing together the timetable for announcing the White Paper, publishing it and the tabling of legislation.

2 The background is unchanged. At present there is considerable speculation and uncertainty over the future of regional policy which the White Paper should do much to end. I think we have to recognize, however, that some continued uncertainty is inevitable until such time as we announce precise changes to the Assisted Area map and the rates at which the new-style Regional Development Grants (RDGs) will be payable. Since the legislation to change the structure of RDGs does not pre-empt decisions on the map and rates of grant, it has been our intention to introduce legislation at the same time as we publish the White Paper.

3 This timetable inevitably means that there will be a relatively long period before people know their Assisted Area fate but we can use this interval to receive representations on



the future map and it will be one of the purposes of the White Paper to invite views on this. If as I recommend in my minute of 21 October we announce our conclusions on the map in the Autumn of 1984 and if we allow a 12 months transitional period for downgradings we can bring the total new package into effect from the Autumn of 1985 and savings will accrue from that date.

4 In my minute to you of 21 October I accepted John Biffen's proposal that we should consider the timing of RDG legislation further once the Co-operative Development Agency (CDA) Bill was ready and once colleagues had considered my proposals on the basis for the map. In the light of your comment, and the clear advantage of linking as closely as possible the publication of our White Paper to the introduction of legislation, I have looked again at the possible timetable for introducing the legislation. My officials have sent instructions to Parliamentary Counsel in respect of both the CDA and RDG legislation. Timing for the drafting is clearly a matter for Parliamentary Counsel but in the view of my officials it should be possible for drafting to be completed in time for Legislation Committee to consider a combined CDA and RDG Bill at its meeting on 23 November. This would allow for introduction of the legislation before the end of November. If this timetable can be met, and I would be grateful for John Biffen's urgent advice on this, I would propose to lay the White Paper the day before introduction of the legislation, i.e 29 November at the latest.



5 If this timetable for legislation is not possible, and I very much hope that it is, and it were necessary to delay introduction of the combined CDA and RDG Bill until the New Year then we should need to reconsider whether the Bill and White Paper should be published together. In that event, I would propose that the White Paper be published in December, and the Bill as soon as possible thereafter.

6 If it is accepted that the White paper and introduction of legislation are linked in the way I have suggested above, I should announce the White paper on 2 November only if we accept that we shall be proceeding with legislation as soon as is practicable. I therefore hope that you and others will agree to my making the announcement on 2 November, with a view to legislation on either of the timetables set out in paras 4 and 5 of this minute.

7 I am copying this minute to John Biffen, all Members of E(A), First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

NJ
NT

26 October 1983

Department of Trade and Industry
1 Victoria Street

Handwritten notes in the top left corner, including "1980", "P+3", and "les".

28 OCT 1985

0 1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9
Circular red stamp with numbers and a central arrow.





10 DOWNING STREET

②
Prime Minister

You have agreed announcement of a White Paper on 2 November at NEDC and either

- (i) White Paper and Nav plus legislation immediately afterwards or
- (ii) White Paper in December and legislation as soon as possible thereafter.

Mr Jenkin prefers (ii), though it does not add much to the time for considering contents of White Paper.

None of this helps with the map which cannot be ready until summer / autumn 1984.

AT 31/10



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

cc: LPSO
 CO
 CS's O HMT
 MAFF DoE
 CDLO WO
 D/Tangp. SO
 D/Env. P/En.
 27 October, 1983 NIO
 HMT
 Parl. Corrodera Office

Regional Policy : Legislation and White Paper - Timing

The Prime Minister was grateful for your Secretary of State's minute bringing together the timetable for announcing the White Paper, publishing it and for the tabling of legislation.

She is content with the timetable he has proposed, i.e. to announce the intention to publish the White Paper at the NEDC meeting on 2 November; to publish the White Paper at the end of November with the legislation to be published the following day. She has also noted that if legislation is delayed until the New Year, the White Paper would be published in December, but your Secretary of State would still make the initial announcement on 2 November.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of members of E(A), to David Heyhoe (Lord Privy Seal's Office), the First Parliamentary Counsel and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

ANDREW TURNBULL

M. C. McCarthy, Esq.,
 Department of Trade and Industry

887

PRIME MINISTER

You expressed the view that the gaps between the announcement of the Regional Policy White paper, its publication and tabling of legislation should be kept short.

Mr. Tebbit's minute suggests:

- (i) announcing intention to have a White Paper on 2 November at NEDC;
- (ii) White Paper at end of November with legislation the next day;
- (iii) But if legislation is delayed until New Year, he proposes White Paper in December and legislation as soon as possible but still with announcement on 2 November.

Agree?

Yhs mk AT

26 October 1983



CC NO

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref: J/PSO/16115/83

Your ref:

CONFIDENTIAL

31 October 1983

Dear Norman,

REGIONAL POLICY

Thank you for sending me a copy of your minute to the Prime Minister, dated 26 October, setting out your proposals for the timing of the White Paper and associated legislation on Regional Industrial Policy.

While I can appreciate your concern to get the necessary Bill introduced as quickly as possible, I am also concerned about the uncertainty which will be created by the long period between the proposed publication of the White Paper and the redrawing of the Assisted Area map. This is reinforced by my doubts about how meaningful the proposed consultation could be when decisions on TTWA boundaries and levels of grant etc have yet to be made. Of course we do not wish to put both the RDG and CDA legislation at risk through late introduction - something on which John Biffen will no doubt advise. But, subject to his views the timetable set out in paragraph 5 of your minute might be preferable as it would allow us time to consider the details of what the White Paper is going to say.

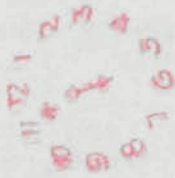
I have no objection to your announcing at the NEDC meeting that the Government plan to publish a White Paper in the near future and I assume that you would not wish to be any more specific than at the meeting.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

*Your ever
Patrick Jenkin*

PATRICK JENKIN

33 1 OCT 1983



CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister ②

~~The announcement of Government's intention to produce a White Paper has been made.~~

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE

WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT



NBPM

Mr Biffen has withdrawn his objections

recd 3/11

31 October 1983

Dear Norman,

attached

REGIONAL POLICY: LEGISLATION AND WHITE PAPER - TIMING

Your minute of 26 October to the Prime Minister asked for my views on the timing of legislation and the publication of a White Paper.

I note that you hope to be able to coordinate the publication of the White Paper and the legislation, but in the circumstances my advice would be to treat the two quite separately. First Parliamentary Counsel has advised that your projected timetable for the legislation (ie to Legislation Committee by 23 November) may not be achievable. His office has only just received instructions on both elements in the Bill and it is not clear how straightforward the drafting will be. If only for this reason, therefore, I suggest that you proceed with your announcement to NEDC and the publication of the White Paper without tying yourself to a timetable for the legislation which must, as yet, be uncertain.

More fundamentally, I retain the doubts I expressed when this subject was discussed in E(A) about the wisdom of introducing RDG legislation in advance of the revised assisted areas map being available. I believe that to do so will be likely to make the combined CDA/RDG Bill extremely contentious and considerably complicate its handling in the Commons. I fully appreciate, of course, the reasons for your anxiety to press on with the Bill with all speed; but I believe that we need to consider all aspects of the problem before making an irrevocable decision to proceed in the way you have in mind.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of E(A) the Chief Whip, First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

JOHN BIFFEN

The Rt Hon Norman Tebbit MP
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

CONFIDENTIAL

Regional Policy : Review A5.



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

28 October 1983

The Rt Hon Norman Tebbit MP
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
1 Victoria Street
LONDON SW1H 0ET

Norman Tebbit

REGIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY

WWW.ATD?

You copied to me your minutes of 21 and 26 October to the Prime Minister about timing of regional policy developments.

I am content with what you propose. It is clearly important to maintain the momentum on this subject, and for that reason I share your hope that it will be possible to publish the White Paper and Bill in November, or failing that, as soon as possible thereafter.

I am copying this letter to members of E(A), John Biffen and Sir Robert Armstrong.

John Biffen
Nigel Lawson

NIGEL LAWSON



[Faint, illegible handwritten text]

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