



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH

→ DB

From the Minister

CONFIDENTIAL

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

nbpm
DWB
17/11

16 November 1983

David - you
asked me to
engage it!
Swain

file with DB.

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 3 November to Nigel Lawson in which you ask for views on your proposals and agreement to you making a statement in the House.

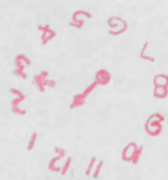
As you will know from the detailed discussion between our officials, we have been concerned that the particularly high proportion of MAFF establishments (45%), which will be served by Defence 'dedicated' District Works Offices, might suffer a deterioration of service. However, your officials' explanations and in particular Mr Alfred's letter of 4 November to Michael Franklin show that you appreciate our concern and are proposing procedures intended to ensure that our establishments dependent on a defence DWO do not suffer. Naturally we will be anxious to see that this aim is achieved in practice.

I must also register my concern that this further major change in PSA's arrangements should be carried through on a realistic timetable. There have been many problems with the move to PRS; and at least some of these seem to have stemmed from an over-ambitious timetable. While I understand the point in the enclosure to your letter about some disruption being inevitable, I do think that, in formulating your plans and timetable, you should give very considerable weight to minimising this.

I am copying this to those who had copies of your letter.

MICHAEL JOPLING

Civil
Service
Long Term
Policy
Part 14



16 NOV 1983