




cc/DP 

W.0272

5 April 1984

MR BARCLAY

pa
Dms
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ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

The Prime Minister asked two questions at this morning's meeting which I was unable to answer fully:

(1) How much public money is being spent on research into environmental pollution? The EP paper estimates £29m, Treasury 'more than £200m'. The Annual Review of Research carried out by my Secretariat can be used to estimate the correct figure and I will make this available before the next Ministerial meeting.

(2) Why has there been insufficient research on environmental pollution despite the substantial funding of NERC? This is partly a matter of NERC scientific priorities not reflecting national needs and partly a reduction in DoE commissioned research from NERC. Again I shall prepare a fuller statement for the next meeting.

In addition I think the next meeting would be helped if there was a concise and accurate statement of the technical position on each issue and a concise summary of the Royal Commission's recent report. I am having both of these prepared before the next meeting.

RSN

ROBIN B NICHOLSON
Chief Scientific Adviser

cc: Mr Hatfield
Mr Pascall
Mr Gregson



16 APR 1984

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COMMERCIAL