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From The Parliamentary Under-Secretary

CT/4322/82

12 July 1982

Dear Tom,

RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT: WHITE PAPER

Our officials have been in close touch throughout the preparation of the draft of the forthcoming White Paper on Radioactive Waste Management, and in general (as I said in my letter of 1 July) I am very content with the text. I have, however, some sympathy with the view expressed by George Younger in his letter of 6 July about figure 1, and I hope that we can do something to solve this relatively minor problem. It seems to me that George Younger's suggestion that the narrative should be expanded is well worth considering.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours of 25 June.

Yours sincerely
Wyn Roberts

WYN ROBERTS

Rt Hon Tom King MP
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW 1



Home Affairs

NBPM
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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Martin Brasher Esq, Private Secretary to
The Rt Hon Tom King MP
Minister for Local Government
and Environmental Services
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB

7 July 1982

Dear Martin,

RADIO-ACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT: WHITE PAPER

The Chief Secretary has seen your Minister's letter of 25 June. He is content for the White Paper to be published on the understanding that it does not commit the Government to any increase in public expenditure.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries of members of E, George Younger and Nicholas Edwards and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely
Terry Mathews

T F MATHEWS

Private Secretary

7 JUL 1962

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8 JUL 1962

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SCOTTISH OFFICE
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The Rt Hon Tom King MP
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 3EB

6 July 1982

Dear Tom;

RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT: WHITE PAPER

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 25 June to Nigel Lawson about the proposed White Paper on radioactive waste management.

Our officials have been keeping closely in touch during the preparation of successive drafts, and most of the points Allan Stewart and I had on earlier versions have now been taken into account. However, we are still unhappy with figure 1 which, even in its revised form, is still very complex and, I fear, virtually unintelligible to anyone who is not completely familiar with the subject matter. What I would like to suggest as an alternative to figure 1 is that the narrative in paragraph 5 of the draft be expanded to include the essential points which figure 1 is trying to convey. Some figures on the levels of activity of each type of waste might also be included if quantification is thought to be desirable.

Subject to this reservation (which my officials have already taken up with yours) you may take it that I am content for publication of the White Paper to proceed.

I am copying this letter to recipients of yours.

Yours ever,
George

67 JUN





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

NSPM
GT 47
Home Affairs

From the Minister

CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt Hon Tom King MP
Minister for Local Government and
Environmental Services
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB

6 July 1982

RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT: WHITE PAPER

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter and enclosure of 25 June to Nigel Lawson. I agree with you that this will be an important document and, in general, I am content with it. I should, however, like to propose three fairly minor amendments.

Paragraph 1 clearly refers back to the Government's Response to the Sixth Report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (Cmnd 6820), but the wording has been slightly changed. My own feeling is that the introductory sentence would be stronger and more arresting if it used the actual words of paragraph 14 of Cmnd 6820 and opened:

"The Secretary of State for the Environment is responsible, together with the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales, for nuclear waste management policy."

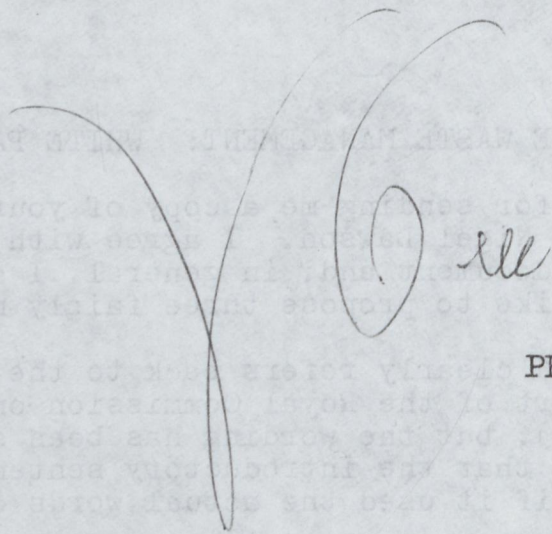
This spells out clearly the responsibilities of Environment Ministers for broad management strategy without cutting across my various policy responsibilities for radioactive matters. If it would help, I would be equally content if you were to amend the first line to "The responsibilities for civil radioactive waste management policy".

/The first ...

The first sentence of paragraph 46 concludes that atmospheric discharges are of minor importance. This is true under normal operating conditions but any significant accidental release could give rise to very serious consequences, possibly including the need to ban sales of milk and other local produce. This is a very sensitive issue, particularly to the general public, and the White Paper must not seem to be dismissive of it. I would suggest the sentence be slightly extended to make it quite clear that it refers only to normal planned releases.

Finally, I suspect that there has been an unintentional oversight in the third sentence of paragraph 61. The Executive will, of course, need to be in close touch with my Department when preparing detailed waste disposal plans for English sites and the reference to "the Environment Departments" should I suggest be to "the Authorising Departments".

I am copying this letter to members of E Committee, George Younger and Nicholas Edwards, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop and a smaller loop, followed by the letters 'lll'.

PETER WALKER



NBPM
FR 6/7
Management and Personnel Office

Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ

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GTN 273 }

2 PP's

The Rt Hon Tom King MP
Minister for Local Government and
Environmental Services
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1

5 July 1982

Dear Minister

RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT: WHITE PAPER

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 25 June and the White Paper on the subject of radioactive waste management.

I am pleased that we are publishing a document along these lines, containing as it does both the statement of our policy and a commitment to future disclosure of facts about radioactive waste. It is a useful example of a commitment to open government. I am also pleased to see that you intend to make presentational changes to the two diagrams; I for one did not find them easy! It might also be desirable to be clearer about whether the paper as a whole extends to Northern Ireland, since the Secretary of State is mentioned in some paragraphs (eg 1 and 15) but not in others (eg 58).

I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of yours, and to Norman Fowler, whose department is mentioned in the draft White Paper.

Yours sincerely

Douglas Board
(Assistant Private Secretary)

BARONESS YOUNG

(approved by the Lord Privy Seal and
signed on her behalf)

CONFIDENTIAL

Home Affairs.

NBPM
TK
5/7



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 July 1982

From The Minister of State

Rt Hon Douglas Hurd CBE MP

Dear Jan,

Thank you for sending us a copy of your letter of 25 June to Nigel Lawson and its enclosure.

I confirm that I am content for the White Paper on Radioactive Waste Management to be published, subject to the minor drafting amendments and presentational improvements to which you refer.

Copies of this letter go to the recipients of yours.

Lawson

Douglas

The Rt Hon Tom King MP
Minister for Local Government and
Environmental Services
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB

CONFIDENTIAL

1982 JUL 6





DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
THAMES HOUSE SOUTH
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01-211 3932

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CONFIDENTIAL

Rt Hon Tom King MP
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 3EB

5 July 1982

Dear Tom,

RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT: WHITE PAPER

Thank you for your letter of 25 June enclosing the final draft of your White Paper on Radioactive Waste Management.

Your officials consulted mine at all stages of the drafting of the White Paper. All aspects of waste management policy that can be described at this stage seem to me to be well covered in the draft; and I think that it fully meets the commitment given in paragraph 18 of the 1977 White Paper to review the existing arrangement for the control of radioactive waste.

I was glad to see that you are now close to agreement with the Industry on the arrangements to set up the Radioactive Waste Management Executive. That is an important step and one which it will be useful to be able to describe at the Sizewell Inquiry. The timing of publication, later this month, is well suited to that purpose.

I confirm, therefore, that I am content that the White Paper should be published as you propose.

John Moore
JOHN MOORE



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Thames House South
Millbank
LONDON SW1P 4QJ

PS/Prime Minister

With the Compliments of

PS/Mr Moore

5/7

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Y Swyddfa Gymreig
Welsh Office

Handwritten initials and numbers: "JH" and "117".

Gyda Chyfarchion yr
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With the Compliments of the
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

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From The Parliamentary Under Secretary

CT/4293/82

July 1982

Dear Tom,

RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT: WHITE PAPER

In response to your letter of 25 June, I can confirm that I am now content for the White Paper to be published subject to the amendments you indicated.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

*Yn eiddo
Wyn Roberts*

WYN ROBERTS

Rt Hon Tom King MP
Minister for Local Government and
Environmental Services
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW 1

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30 JUN 1982



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