



## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

20 September 1984

*John Biffen.*

## EDUCATION IN LONDON

Thank you for your letter of 25 August replying to my letter of 10 August. I have also had helpful comments from Leon Brittan, Patrick Jenkin and John Selwyn Gummer.

I have incorporated John Selwyn Gummer's comments in a revised draft of the statement, which I enclose for information and which, as there were no other comments, I shall assume is now agreed.

It seems to be generally agreed that an appropriate time to make the announcement would be after the GLC by-elections, but before the major party conferences. This points to Monday 24 or Tuesday 25 September. We ought perhaps, however, to pause to consider whether, now that the date has slipped from my original proposal of early September, we would do better to wait until the Commons have resumed. I realise that I argued against this in my earlier letter on the grounds that remaining silent would become increasingly implausible at a time when it was known that the Bill had been finalised. However, there has been no detectable pressure or interest in the matter up to now; and John Biffen (who I am afraid was omitted from the circulation of my earlier letter) may wish to express a view on whether we ought, after all, to wait until the House is back.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to the **Prime Minister**, Leon Brittan, Patrick Jenkin, John Biffen (together with a copy of my letter of 10 August), Peter Rees, Michael Havers, Kenneth Baker and John Selwyn Gummer and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Gummer,*

*Keir -*

Lord President of the Council  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA



DRAFT STATEMENT

The Government announced earlier this year that in the light of the consultations which it had carried out it had decided that the new Inner London Education Authority to be formed on the abolition of the Greater London Council should be directly elected. During the passage through Parliament of the Local Government (Interim Provisions) Act, it was also decided that the term of office of the existing GLC members (from whom the bulk of the ILEA membership is drawn) should be extended from May 1985, when elections would have been due, to April 1986, the proposed date of abolition. We have been considering how best to secure continuity for the administration of education in inner London through the transition.

The Government has concluded that the first direct elections to the Authority which will succeed the ILEA should be held in May 1986 to coincide with the London Borough elections. We propose that the new corporate body which is to take over the functions of the ILEA from 1 April 1986 should be established, like the new joint boards, on Monday, 2 September 1985, in order to prepare the budget and fix the precept for 1986-87 and make other necessary preparations.

From its establishment until the elections in May 1986, the new body would be composed of the present members of the ILEA (who will, of course, also continue to constitute the existing Authority as a special committee of the GLC until 1 April 1986). Later elections would also coincide with those for the Borough Councils.

Unlike other services for which the GLC has a responsibility, the functions exercised by the ILEA will be exercised by a single directly elected body. The new Authority will differ from the existing ILEA only in the method by which it is constituted. In these circumstances it is appropriate to



place responsibility on the existing members of the ILEA to plan for the transfer of staff and property to the new Authority and to prepare the budget and fix the precept for the first year of the new Authority.

This provides the best guarantee for continuity of administration and a smooth transition to the new arrangements and is consistent with the Government's decision to enable GLC members, including those who are members of the ILEA, to continue to perform their functions until 1 April 1986.



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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

21 September 1984

*ZPP's*

*Dear Secretary of State,*

EDUCATION IN LONDON

*wik in T*  
Thank you for sending me copies of your letters of 10 August and 20 September to Willie Whitelaw.

I note that you have detected no pressure or interest in the date of the direct elections to ILEA. In view of this, and of the undoubted need for very careful handling in Parliament of all issues connected with the abolition of the GLC and MCCs, I would much prefer that you make the announcement in the form of an Oral Statement to the House after the recess. If, as the situation develops, you feel that this would pose you unacceptable problems, no doubt you will let me know.

Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, Willie Whitelaw, Leon Brittan, Patrick Jenkin, Peter Rees, Michael Havers, Kenneth Baker, John Selwyn Gummer, Sir Robert Armstrong and (with copies of the previous correspondence) John Wakeham.

*yours sincerely*

*Charles Marshall*  
*(Prime Secretary)*

*for* JOHN BIFFEN

*(agreed by the Lord Privy Seal  
and signed in his absence)*

Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph Bt MP  
Secretary of State for Education and Science

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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

22 September 1984

Dear Keith

Thank you for your letter of 20 September.

I would be quite content now for you to  
make your statement about the date of  
the ILEA elections when the Commons resumes.

I am sending copies of this letter to the  
Prime Minister, Leon Brittan, Patrick Jenkin,  
John Biffen, Peter Rees, Michael Havers,  
Kenneth Baker, John Gummer, John Wakeham,  
and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours  
faithfully

The Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph Bt MP

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*DD*

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2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-212 3434  
My ref:

Your ref:

24 September 1984

*Dear Keith,*

EDUCATION IN LONDON

I have seen a copy of your letter of 20 <sup>with AT</sup> September to Willie Whitelaw on the timing of the announcement about the date of ILEA elections. I agree with your view that we should defer an announcement until Parliament reassembles.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Willie Whitelaw, Leon Brittan, John Biffen, Peter Rees, Michael Havers, Kenneth Baker and John Selwyn Gummer and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours  
Patrick*

PATRICK JENKIN

The Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph MP



