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2**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE**

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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Pine Munster

Andrew Turnbull Esq  
 Private Secretary to  
 Prime Minister  
 10 Downing Street  
 London SW1

4 October 1984

Dear Andrew,

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**EDUCATION IN LONDON**

Thank you for your letter of 25 September. In the light of the responses received the Secretary of State is content to postpone the announcement of the timing of the election to the new ILEA until the Commons returns. He is writing to the Lord Privy Seal about the detailed arrangements.

As regards the question whether setting up the shadow ILEA in September 1985 instead of 1 April 1986 would make it more or less difficult to ensure that the new body is efficiently staffed and financed, the Secretary of State is confident that it will make it less difficult. The possibility of obstruction cannot be ruled out. But we improve the chances of a satisfactory outcome if we have a separate legal entity in existence which can be made formally responsible for preparing the necessary plans as to finance and manpower and given the time to prepare them, which it would not if it had not been constituted until the day on which it became operational.

I am copying this letter to Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office), Hugh Taylor (Home Office), John Ballard (DOE), David Morris (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Richard Broadbent (Chief Secretary's Office), Henry Steel (Law Officers' Department), Mike Bailey (Kenneth Baker's Office, DOE), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office), Alex Galloway (Paymaster General's Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

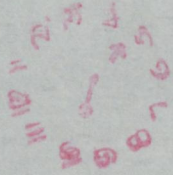
Yours,

MISS C E HODKINSON  
 Private Secretary

Education

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5 October 1984

This is just to record that the Prime Minister has seen and noted your Secretary of State's letter of 4 October about the timing of the announcement of elections to the new ILEA. She is content with these arrangements.

Timothy Flesher

Miss Elizabeth Hodkinson,  
Department of Education and Science.

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c. Mr. Redwood

## 10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 September 1984

Dear Elizabeth,

Education in London

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's letter to the Lord President of 20 September seeking the views of colleagues on when to announce the Government's proposals for education in London. She agrees with other colleagues that, unless particular difficulties arise, it would be better to leave the announcement until the House returns.

She has noted, however, that the proposal set out in the draft Statement varies in one detail from that which emerged from the 2 August meeting. It was agreed then that existing ILEA councillors should remain in charge of ILEA (old and new) until the May 1986 elections. This is embodied in the draft. The difference is that new ILEA comes into existence as a shadow body in September 1985 before taking on its substantive existence on 1 April 1986. The Prime Minister would like to be assured that this difference would not make it more difficult to ensure that new ILEA is efficiently staffed and financed.

I am copying this letter to Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office), Hugh Taylor (Home Office), John Ballard (DOE), David Morris (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Richard Broadbent (Chief Secretary's Office), Henry Steel (Law Officers' Department), Mike Bailey (Kenneth Baker's Office, DOE), Alex Galloway (Paymaster General's Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely  
Andrew Turnbull

Andrew Turnbull

Miss C.E. Hodkinson,  
Department of the Environment.

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PRIME MINISTER

EDUCATION IN LONDON

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Two issues arise from Sir Keith Joseph's letter of 20 September. The first is whether there should be an early announcement of the Government's proposals or whether this should wait until Parliament returns. Colleagues favour the latter and I understand Sir Keith is content to go along with this.

Flag B

The second is the nature of the proposals. At your meeting on 2 August the conclusion was that existing GLC/ILEA councillors should remain in place until May 1986, first on old ILEA and then from 1 April to the middle of May on new ILEA.

The proposal in the draft statement is slightly different as it envisages the establishment of new ILEA in shadow form from September 1985 to 1 April 1986 before taking on substantive form at the start of the new financial year. Since the issue is really who runs ILEA, and it has been decided to allow existing councillors to continue, I do not think this makes much difference though I think we should ask DES to confirm that this latest variant does not make it more difficult to control the resources <sup>which are</sup> ~~with our~~ transferred to new ILEA.

Agree?

Yes not

AT

24 September 1984