

File 5A
13

Mr. Alison

You asked about the phenomenon of people in local government who manage simultaneously to enjoy elected membership of one authority and paid professional employment under the auspices of another.

This is one of the subjects under study by the Widdicombe Committee, who are expected to report in the middle of next year. The question apparently is not totally straightforward: the difficulty is to prevent abuses without excluding legitimate "cross-employment" eg teachers, policemen etc. There are also Conservative elected members who are paid as officials in another authority.

But as you say, this area is unsatisfactory and the Government will be looking at it further in the light of the Widdicombe Report.

David Norgrove

2 December 1985



Department of the Environment
Room P1/115
2 Marsham Street London SW1P 3EB
Direct line 01-212 6341
Switchboard 01-212 3434

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

R W Chattaway Esq
Department of Education and Science
Room 15/12
Elizabeth House

21 May 1986

Dear Mr Chattaway

WIDDICOMBE INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY BUSINESS

in folder attached to file

1. I have recently succeeded John Phillips as head of Local Government Division 1, and will therefore be taking over his responsibilities in connection with the Widdicombe Inquiry.

2. The Inquiry's main report was submitted to my Secretary of State on 9 May, and he has announced that we are arranging for its publication, together with four accompanying research volumes, next month. My Secretary of State will be writing to the Prime Minister shortly after the Whitsun recess about his proposals for the handling of the report at publication and thereafter. I thought it would be helpful, therefore, to let you have this advance copy of the main report, in view of your Department's interest in some of its recommendations.

3. I must ask you, please, to restrict circulation of your copy until publication.

4. Copies of this letter go to Penny Lee (Home Office), Bob Hewes (MPO), Alistair Pirie (Treasury), Peter Smethurst (Transport), Vera Demmery (DHSS), John Healey (DTI), Peter Makeham (DEMP), David Sergeant (Attorney General's Office), Michael Collon (Lord Chancellor's Office), David Morris (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Nigel Hamilton (Northern Ireland Office), Anthony Langdon and Andrew Lansley (Cabinet Office), Rhodri Walters and Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Offices), and **David Norgrove at No.10;** and to Ken Moore (Scottish Office) and David Timlin (Welsh Office).

Yours sincerely
Angela Heath

MRS L A HEATH