

CABG



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From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. A085/3190

6 December 1985

Dear Robin

NBM.

The Financing and Administration of Land Drainage
Prevention of Flooding, and Coast Protection in
England and Wales

In a minute of 5 February to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Sir Robert Armstrong said that he would be willing to provide a chairman and 'lead' secretary from the Cabinet Office for a group to consider the responses to the Green Paper on this topic. The suggestion for this arrangement had come from the then Secretary of State for the Environment.

The decision in principle taken at E(A)(85) 22nd meeting about the privatisation of water authorities had broadened the context for further work in this field, and I understand that, at official level, your Department, the Treasury and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food all agree that issues arising from the Green Paper should now be processed between Departments in the normal way within that wider context.

Unless he hears to the contrary, therefore, Sir Robert Armstrong will assume that the previous wish for a Cabinet Office chairman and secretary for this exercise has lapsed, though he would be glad to consider providing Cabinet Office services to help resolve any problems that may arise in this field. If Machinery of Government considerations arise, the Machinery of Government Division in the Cabinet Office (MPO) should of course be consulted in the normal way.

I am sending copies of this letter to David Norgrove in the Prime Minister's Office, and to the Private Secretaries to the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Chief Secretary, Treasury, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Minister of State, Privy Council Office.

Yours ever

Michael

(M C Stark)

Private Secretary

R U Young Esq

LOCAL GOVT : Water Industry : Pt 2

