

HRH The Prince of Wales  
Clarence House  
London  
SW1A 1BA

de

30th September 2004

*Dear Prince Charles,*

I very much enjoyed coming to the lecture and dinner last week, celebrating the tenth anniversary of your Business and the Environment Programme.

Knowing of your great personal interest in conservation and particularly as it relates to the fate of sea birds, I felt you may be interested in the attached information on the High Seas Task Force that I am chairing:

- A general Briefing document on IUU
- An update letter I recently wrote to all existing Task Force member Ministers
- A briefing document for UK MP's

IUU (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated) fishing is a serious ecological and environmental threat. It is having terrible effects on the marine environment and is also driving certain species such as the endangered albatross towards extinction through complete disregard of associated conservation measures.

If you desire any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you also for your letter of 15 September from [redacted] appreciate your help in pushing for wider ratification of the ACAP treaty.

I greatly

*Regards*  
*Elliot Morley*  
ELLIOT MORLEY

- 1) Morcey to see
- 2) Mike Rinner, for advice + draft reply by Mon 8th Nov
- 3)

JPS/em  
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BIRKHALL

21<sup>st</sup> October, 2004

*Dear Mr. Morley,*

Thank you so much for your letter telling me about the High Seas Task Force. I must say that it is enormously encouraging to know of your efforts to try and bring to heel the recalcitrant countries who sanction, either directly or by turning a blind eye, pirate and illegal fishing and I do wish you well in your endeavours. You have certainly managed to bring together a powerful alliance of N.G.O.s and countries. I particularly hope that the illegal fishing of the Patagonian Toothfish will be high on your list of priorities because until that trade is stopped, there is little hope for the poor old albatross, for which I shall continue to campaign...

By the way, I wonder whether any thought might have been given to the possible role that could be played by the navies of the countries associated with the High Seas Task Force? I am probably being very ignorant about all this, so please forgive me, but is the Royal Navy, for instance, included in the discussions on this issue? I daresay you will tell me there are all sorts of legal problems that prevent any worthwhile action...!

Incidentally, I am also looking forward to the publication of the Royal Commission's report on sustainable fishing. I hear on my own grapevine that it may be quite hard-hitting, which can only be a good thing and I just hope that the powers-that-be, and the general public, take note of its findings.

Thank you again for writing as you did. I know just what a personal commitment you have made to this issue and how deeply you feel about it. Let us hope that between all of us who mind about sustainable fishing, we can make a difference before it is all too late...

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*Yours most sincerely*  
*Mandy*

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**defra**

HRH The Prince of Wales  
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1064

November 2004

*Dear Prince Charles,*

Thank you for your letter of 21 October regarding the IUU Task Force and for your kind words of support

Since I wrote to you on the 21 September the Task Force Members have been asked to respond to a paper on "Possible Areas of Intervention by the High Seas Task Force". I have enclosed a copy together with a copy of the UK's. I hope that you are further encouraged to see that among the measures we are also looking at ways in which the Royal Navy "blue water fleet" may be able to help in combating IUU fishing.

I will be happy to keep you informed of progress.

*Regards*  
*Elliot Morley*  
ELLIOT MORLEY

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From the Secretary of State for Health



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28 OCT 2004

*Gen Royal Highness*

Thank you very much for your letter of 23 August. I must apologise for the delay in replying. I understand your concerns about the potential disruption that a transfer of the land at Cherry Knowle to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister may have on the 'Enquiry by Design' initiative. However, I should like to reassure you that we are keen to ensure this project moves ahead. Furthermore, as you know, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is a stakeholder at Cherry Knowle and has an interest in seeing the process brought to a successful conclusion.

The case for a major capital redevelopment, which includes Cherry Knowle, submitted by the South of Tyne & Wearside Mental Health NHS Trust has now been approved. The next step will be for the Trust to work up its plans in sufficient detail to identify clearly the land it requires for its new scheme, including any enabling works. This, together with details of how the project will be funded, will be the key elements to be covered in the next stage of the assessment and on which the Trust is currently working. My officials will be meeting with the Trust on 22 October to help them take this work forward.

I was very impressed by the work we saw at South of Tyne & Wearside Mental Health NHS Trust in January, and we are trialling two further projects, on a Primary Care and Acute site at Newquay and North Merseyside respectively.

The 'Enquiry by Design' at Newquay will take place on 25-29 October. It will incorporate the Central Cornwall Primary Care Trust in the master plan for the Newquay Growth Area, which includes the redevelopment of the community hospital. The 'Enquiry by Design' at North Merseyside will take place on 6-10 December. It will bring key stakeholders together including Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust to articulate a vision for the redevelopment or re-provision of Alder Hey Hospital, the Royal Liverpool University Hospital at Aintree and the provision of community based mental health facilities, collectively estimated at £1.2 billion of investment.

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I have asked my officials to take all possible steps to speed up matters in respect to Cherry Knowle, and to let me have a further update shortly. At that point I will write to you again.

I have the honour to remain Sir, your Royal Highness's most humble and obedient servant.

Yours ever  
John  
JOHN REID

From the Secretary of State for Health



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13 JAN 2005

*Yvonne Royal Hughes*

I wrote to you on 8 October 2004 about the joint initiative between the Prince's Foundation, NHS Estates and the NHS on Enquiry by Design, and in particular, progress on the Cherry Knowle site. I thought the New Year presented a good opportunity to bring you up-to-date with progress.

Since I approved the Strategic Outline Case for a major capital redevelopment at Cherry Knowle in July 2004, the South of Tyne & Wearside Mental Health Trust has been developing the next stage in the decision-making process, namely a more detailed Outline Business Case. As part of this, they will be clarifying their site requirements within the wider strategy developed at the Enquiry by Design in November 2003, and my officials are continuing to provide them with assistance.

As you know, part of the Cherry Knowle site is included in the transfer of land to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to assist in the Government's Sustainable Communities programme. This programme has a strong synergy with the Enquiry by Design approach. I understand that the Cherry Knowle redevelopment can incorporate hospital facilities, provide homes for key workers and become a thriving, vibrant, sustainable community. The Enquiry by Design initiative is therefore playing a major part in achieving something of considerable value and benefit to the local community.

To support the Trust in the preparation of this Business Case, a meeting is taking place later this month including the NHS Trust, the Strategic Health Authority, NHS Estates and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, along with colleagues from the Prince's Foundation. We very much welcome the Foundation's continuing involvement in this important project.

*From the Secretary of State for Health*



I am also delighted to say that progress is also being made on the two additional Enquiries by Design. That in Liverpool will now take place in early April and will assist in the strategic planning required to reconfigure and redevelop the whole health economy of North Merseyside. A major Enquiry by Design is in the early stages of planning, to take place in the summer, and will assist the Primary Care Trusts for Merton, Sutton and Mid-Surrey to determine the new arrangements for healthcare provision in those boroughs. As you can see, these are both substantial undertakings and I believe that the Enquiry by Design approach piloted at Cherry Knowle will provide the right foundations for building the best solutions with community-wide involvement.

I have asked my officials to continue to keep me informed of progress, and I will write to you again in due course to provide a further update.

*You are*  
*John*  
JOHN REID

DEPT  
FEB 2005  
CORRESPONDENCE  
PRIVATE OFFICE CC12

CLARENCE HOUSE

300 P05011397

24th February, 2005

*Dear Tom*

Thank you so much for your letters of 8<sup>th</sup> October and 13<sup>th</sup> January in response to my concerns about progress in redeveloping the site of Cherry Knowle Hospital in Sunderland. I have hesitated to bother you too much on this issue, and on the wider one of the disposal of one hundred N.H.S. hospital sites, but I feel now is the time to return to the fray!

It is now over a year since we visited the site together to look at the work undertaken by my Foundation and other key partners at the "Enquiry by Design" held in November 2003. You were, I think, enthusiastic about the holistic and integrated nature of the plan produced to drive forward an N.H.S.-led regeneration of not just the Cherry Knowle site, but the entire village of Ryhope.

I hope you will forgive my persistence on this issue but, despite your helpful updates, the log-jam to which I referred in my letter of last August shows little sign of alleviation and it saddens me greatly to think that the immense progress and collective enthusiasm gathered twelve months ago is now in danger of being lost.

The continuing hiatus seems to be due in no small part to the protracted negotiations being undertaken as part of the residual estate transfer to the O.D.P.M. I am sure that the issues surrounding the transfer must be incredibly complex and fraught with all kinds legal and financial questions. However, the project seems to have made no real progress in the last year in addressing any of the key outputs contained within the Strategic Framework Plan produced by the EbD.

A vital feature of that plan was that it should be capable of delivery by the N.H.S. as custodian of the overall vision. It is this principle that made the EbD plan such an innovative one and also one which has pointed the way to so many other N.H.S. Trusts during the last twelve months. As I wrote in my previous letter, I can't help thinking that transferring this task to another Government Department

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risks the introduction of further complexities and delays and will inevitably undermine the health vision as other priorities take precedence over time.

I would be so grateful for your thoughts about this situation, and particularly whether there is any prospect of the site remaining within the remit of the N.H.S. in the hands of the local South of Tyne and Wearside N.H.S. Trust? Alternatively, is there any way of ensuring that the transfer of the site to English Partnerships is accompanied by a commitment to go forward with the mixed-use, integrated plan that emerged with such promise from the EbD? I am concerned that an estate transfer might result in the splitting of the hospital site from other development sites in a way that would undermine the overall vision we have worked so hard together to achieve.

Meanwhile, I do appreciate your kind words about my Foundation for the Built Environment and the contribution it has been able to make in this field. When back in November 2001 I shared a platform with the then Secretary of State at a conference co-hosted by N.H.S. Estates and my Foundation, I was pleased to launch what I think has been a very positive collaboration in promoting an integrated approach to design quality in healthcare buildings and the way we treat redundant hospitals. Cherry Knowle was, of course, one of five national pilot projects and I gather that the N.H.S. has encouragingly referred to the work done at the EbD there as a model for best practice. I am confident that valuable lessons will be distilled from the further testing of the model in North Merseyside which will have wider applicability to other brownfield sites. We are, however, faced with a potentially problematic discontinuity as N.H.S. Estates is wound up in a few months' time...

Please forgive me, therefore, for repeating my growing anxiety that those responsible for the N.H.S.'s residual estates in future will be able to maintain the links that have been forged with the Foundation and take advantage not only of its enquiry methods, but also its growing network of practitioners with practical experience of making these developments work. I would be so glad of your reassurance that connections will not be lost as personnel and responsibilities change in the coming months? I would also be glad to know about the progress of the masterplanning for the sites which are to be transferred: could there be scope here for a broader partnership with my Foundation?

I think you will know by now – to your cost! – that these are matters about which I care deeply – chiefly because I have witnessed so many failed opportunities to create imaginative, and innovative heritage-led regeneration initiatives which can maximize the asset value of the historic site and result in genuinely mixed-use, mixed-income communities. In order to create truly sustainable communities and avoid the mistakes of the past, I hope you will agree that we need to take a long-term view, think in innovative ways and take heed of mounting evidence from around the world about the true cost, in both financial and human terms, of bad development. I fear that if the estates are transferred now without proper consideration, various chickens will come home to roost in your own department in coming years as the physical and mental well-being of future communities is affected – not least the key N.H.S. workers who may be living in them...

At the risk of being a complete bore about this, I do pray that we could discuss these matters more fully before irrevocable decisions are taken which could sacrifice the long-term value to be gained from the most sympathetic and “integrated” use of the assets. All I can say is that my Foundation for the Built Environment is ready to help in any way it can.

*J. J. J.*

*Mandy*

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21 MAR 2005

*Your Royal Highness*

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of 24 February about Cherry Knowle. I am indeed enthusiastic about the opportunities it presents to deliver a scheme that both gives the NHS high quality, sympathetic buildings to support its work, but also creates a solution for the whole community.

I understand your frustration at the apparent speed of progress. However, I do hope that my letter will allay your concerns. Whilst the "surplus" land will transfer to English Partnerships, we have their commitment to continue with the Enquiry by Design process. I can assure you that I take the matter of the Cherry Knowle Development very seriously, and am hopeful that it will provide a model for future such collaborations.

It might help if I were to start by setting out what progress has been made, and then to explain the current situation.

I must admit that matters have not moved ahead as smoothly or as quickly as we would all have hoped. However, I do know that the local NHS Trusts, the Strategic Health Authority, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and English Partnerships, along with my officials, have been undertaking considerable work to move matters forward. For instance, the South of Tyne and Wearside Mental Health NHS Trust has already initiated some design work. More importantly, the Trust and the local Teaching Primary Care Trust are making major progress in identifying the service vision. I think it is quite right that before we decide what facilities we will need, that we should ensure that the service plan is right.

As a result, the Trusts have:

- reviewed the evidence in the initial business case to support bed provision
- reviewed current bed use
- evaluated the impact of introducing community specialist teams for Crisis Resolution, Assertive Outreach and Early Intervention in Psychosis, particularly in relation to bed use
- looked closely at the role of the community and mental health team's roles and those of primary care and reshaped services accordingly – I understand that new worker roles are being introduced
- focusing on a whole systems review to allow the Trust to provide more care in a community setting, including community crisis beds and supported accommodation

- a strategic review of specialist services to determine whether they should be provided more locally, and then to plan accordingly.

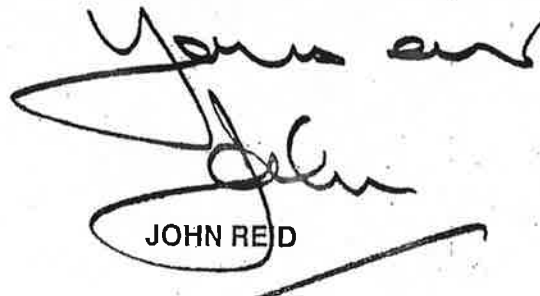
I do believe that these are very important results and the Trust is right to look closely how it can best deliver its services. To ensure that this work is well resourced and led, the Trust has also appointed a Director of Modernisation and Planning, and has already begun to address the points made by the Healthcare Commission in their recent review.

I understand that the Trust is aiming that by the end of March it and the Teaching Primary Care Trust will have tested out research findings and clinical evidence on the impact of new models of care on the future requirements for beds. This will lay a robust foundation for the on-going work on the specification of the new hospital. This is vital because it will enable the Trust to develop the brief for the new capital scheme. The Trust advise that they expect to be able to let the Strategic Health Authority have their Outline Business Case in the Autumn of 2005.

As you are aware, I have agreed with John Prescott that the land in the retained estate should transfer to English Partnerships. I believe that this will make a very valuable contribution to our programme on sustainable communities. I am informing the Trust that the land that they do not require for their development will be transferred to English Partnerships. English Partnerships have reiterated their support for the Enquiry By Design's strategic vision, and that they recognise the priorities of the NHS. Neither English Partnerships nor the Trust can deliver this scheme separately and joint working will be essential. I am delighted to hear from English Partnerships that they welcome the opportunity to work with the Prince's Foundation, with whom they have already enjoyed successful collaborations. I believe that the commitment of these bodies should ensure that the programme moves ahead as a single entity. I am sure that English Partnerships will be keen to consider whether your Foundation can assist them with any of the other sites.

In terms of NHS Estates, we are currently finalising the plans for the future. A team will move into the Department of Health, and its other core functions will move to bodies with whose remit its existing work programmes will find the most synergy. Continuity and ensuring that valuable partnerships, for instance with the Prince's Foundation, are maintained will be a priority.

The Cherry Knowle initiative is ambitious, and it is perhaps inevitable that things will not progress as quickly as we would all wish. However, I do believe that there is now a clear path ahead, and with the continuing commitment of all of the interested parties we can achieve a solution that is best for the whole community, and which will act as a beacon for other schemes.

  
JOHN REID

From the Secretary of State for Health



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11 FEB 2005

Following our previous discussions on integrated health, I agreed to provide a note on the outcome of my Department's recent consultation document on the statutory regulation of herbal medicine and acupuncture.

I am pleased therefore to enclose an advance copy of our analysis of responses to the consultation paper. The report on consultation will be formally launched on Monday 14 February 2005.

The majority of the responses received indicate a strong support for my Department's proposals to introduce statutory regulation for herbal medicine and acupuncture, in order to ensure patient and public protection and enhance the status of the herbal medicine and acupuncture professions.

The responses to the consultation will enable us to develop the provisions to be included in the draft Order establishing the new regulatory system. My Department plans to publish draft legislation for further consultation later this year.

  
**JOHN REID**



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Rt Hon Charles Clarke MP

His Royal Highness, Prince of Wales

7 September 2004

*SCW*

Thank you for your letter of 2 August, describing your visit to schools in South Gloucestershire. I apologise for the delay in responding. One of my officials attended at the invitation of the Soil Association and they have provided me with a note outlining the main points that emerged from this stimulating and well organised event.

I too have heard anecdotal evidence that children's behaviour improves when they eat a healthy diet. There are of course other benefits too, as children who eat well are less likely to become obese, or suffer from problems with their health and development.

Like you, I am very pleased that South Gloucestershire Council has taken the time and effort to improve the quality of food in its schools. My officials have had a number of productive discussions with

I understand that the council has decided to promote the use of sustainable produce, not only in school meals, but throughout all of their food services countywide, and I hope that other LEAs will look carefully at what they have achieved. I was pleased to hear that a number of local authority leaders accompanied you on your visit, as they are crucial to influencing change at local level.

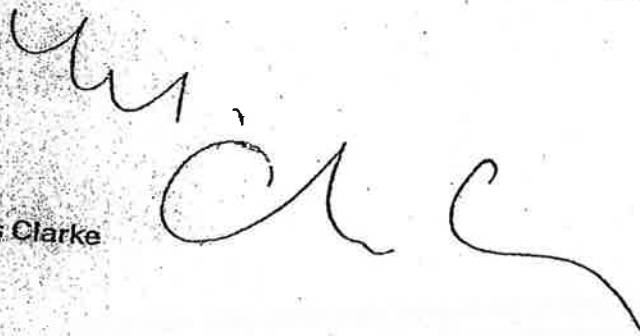
I have read the recent Local Authority Caterers Association report on school meals, which reported that profits from school meals were being used to supplement other education budgets. While it is important that we give schools the autonomy to manage their own budgets, we also recognise that there is a real need to help them improve their approach to food and drink. My officials are working closely with other government departments on ways to increase awareness of the benefits of good food and drink provision in schools. In addition, we have been working with the larger catering suppliers to help identify ways in which we can improve the relationship between schools and providers.



All of this work will be brought together with the publication, in early September, of a Healthy Living Action Plan. It will bring together cross government advice and include examples of best practice about healthy eating and drinking in schools. It will set out what schools can do to improve children's attitudes to food, drink and exercise, and show how developing a 'whole school' approach to food can bring significant improvements to the health of our children. I will make sure that you receive a copy and would be grateful for any further reflections you may have.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your Royal Highness's most humble and obedient servant.

Charles Clarke





CLARENCE HOUSE  
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DFES SECRETARY OF  
STATES PRIVATE OFFICE  
RECEIVED & LOGGED

04 NOV 2004

From:

28th October 2004

Private and Confidential

*Dear Secretary of State,*

The Prince of Wales has asked me to ensure that you received a copy of the recently published feasibility study which examined the future potential development of the Prince of Wales Education Summer Schools, and to which your department kindly contributed funding. I submitted a copy previously, but in addition to the further enclosed copy, I wanted to include a copy of an Executive Summary, prepared for His Royal Highness, which tells the story of the paper and sets out three options for moving the project forward.

You will note that these consist of:

- a proposal to create a new Prince of Wales Educational charity which would be charged with delivering a new teacher training initiative or "institute"
- a proposal to create a new partnership with a UK university, using the Business in the Environment arrangement at Cambridge as a possible model
- a proposal to develop an initiative under the auspices of an existing Education charity such as Teach First

After recent discussion, our preferred route to is to develop the idea of a partnership and to begin drawing together criteria for such an arrangement which would maintain the ethos of the current Education Summer Schools whilst broadening and deepening its impact around the country. We would intend to stage a residential event at Dartington Hall, Devon (the venue for the first school three years ago) in June 2005, which would act as a "launch" platform for further activity including the creation of an alumni association, a series of half-day or one-day events and other elements, all of which would fall into the category of Continuing Professional Development. It might be that School-Centred Initial Teacher Training activity could also be developed as part of the initiative.

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If the partnership idea were to fail, then we would move to the option of creating a new charity. Clearly, the principle challenges associated with each option are securing appropriate funding and appointing a Director with appropriate support staff, before too long.

I know that The Prince of Wales would be keen to know your views on the enclosed findings, but in the meantime, this comes with His Royal Highness's warmest good wishes.

*Yours sincerely,*

**The Rt Hon Charles Clarke M.P.**  
**Secretary of State for Education and Skills**



CLARENCE HOUSE

MSX DN1-1  
Cllr

Dear Secretary of State 24th November, 2004

If you can bear to receive a report on this year's Education Summer School from someone with such old-fashioned views (!), I particularly wanted to express my gratitude to you for your continuing support of this venture which, as you will recall, was held in Buxton at the end of June. Judging by the structured feed-back and reporting by the teacher delegates, they all got a great deal out of the event and, by all accounts, are applying some of the elements learned in their own classrooms.

Quite apart from the impact of the third of my Summer Schools, I do hope that you have had an opportunity to read some of the Feasibility Study which my office sent to you recently, and which I believe opens the way towards the creation of a teacher training institute. If there were issues which you felt needed greater explanation, or indeed exploration, perhaps you would kindly let me know. I need hardly add that it would be absolutely marvellous if, having contributed to the Study, you felt able to continue supporting the initiative into 2005 and beyond... But perhaps I am now too dangerous to associate with!

In the meantime, I am delighted to be able to enclose a post-course brochure, together with a copy of the Evaluation Report for the 2004 School in Buxton. Both have been compiled by the School's Steering Group, under its Director, Bernice McCabe, and I believe they make fascinating reading. There is, I think, a very real sense that the Schools have identified a gap in the teaching of English and History and, I might add, have set about bridging it. My Summer Schools are also challenging the fashionable view that teachers should not impart bodies of knowledge, but should instead act as "facilitators" or "coaches," a notion which I find difficult to understand, I must admit.

I very much hope that you find the reports stimulating and I do once again want to thank you most warmly for your invaluable support.

Yours most sincerely  
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14 February 2005

SW  
Thank you for the copy of the Prince of Wales Education Summer School Feasibility Study, as sent by a letter dated 28 October. My apologies for the delay in responding. I am aware of the interest that Charles Clarke took in the Summer Schools and have seen his letter of 31 January in which he confirmed, with my agreement, that my Department would be happy to fund the Summer School at the same level for 2005 as it had done in 2004.

It is reassuring to learn from your survey that teachers' responses to their experiences at the summer school have been so very positive; especially their confirmation of the school's lasting effects on their confidence and working practices.

It was also interesting to read about the options for expansion of the summer schools programme and network. I can see that, in principle, there are many worthwhile activities and projects proposed.

After some consideration, in terms of financial support, we are not in a position to provide direct funding for ongoing programmes of continuing professional development and initial teacher training such as those proposed in the Feasibility Study. As you will appreciate, there are a number of very high-quality providers of both CPD and ITT and it is important that the department offers any larger-scale ongoing funding through fair and competitive processes.

I do recognise however that there is much potential for valuable teacher support in the proposals, and would not want to discourage further exploration of their viability. I strongly support the study's suggestion of liaising with the Teacher Training Agency, and think this would be an important next step for setting up CPD and ITT provision, since I believe any new training programmes would be most effective if delivered through existing TTA structures.



If further advice is required, may I suggest that contact David Hopkins here ? I know that David would be happy to consider any further suggestions arising from their discussions.

Your Obedient Servant

*Ruth*

RUTH KELLY



HIGHGROVE HOUSE

22nd February, 2005

Dear Secretary of State,

I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Education and Skills. I suspect it may not be the easiest of tasks, so I can only wish you well!

I understand from your predecessor, Charles Clarke, that he has spoken to you about my most recent letter of 24<sup>th</sup> November, and specifically about the impact of my Education Summer School for teachers of English and History. This Programme, which involves up to ninety state school teachers each year, has been held over the past three years at Dartington, in Devon, at Dunston, in Norfolk and at Buxton, in Derbyshire. I believe that they have added fresh inspiration to the national debate about the importance of English Literature and History in schools.

The Summer Schools to date have been generally judged to be enormously successful with an extraordinary line-up of individuals who did not contribute as educationalists, but as experts in the fields of Literature and History. The teachers who attended in 2004 and previous years felt that they had been offered a new perspective on their subjects, rather than the theory of education.

Despite having made substantial progress, as you may be aware I remain convinced that the current approaches to teaching and learning need to be challenged, something now acknowledged by some of the professional agencies themselves! The Schools have, in my view, provided ample evidence that teachers themselves are more than willing to look again at what they do and consider whether they are doing the best they can.

Building on the success of these Summer Schools, I am keen to provide the opportunity for a further eighty, or so, teachers of English and History to come together to engage with the questions from first principles as to why teach English and History. Why are these subjects important? What should we be teaching in these subjects? How should we be teaching these subjects? In addition the 2005

course will include teachers who have previously attended as the first step in building an Education Summer School alumni body referred to in the feasibility study which I understand that you have seen.

I hesitate to write to you when I know how busy you are but wonder if there is any chance that you could come and speak at this year's Summer School when it will return to Dartington Hall, Devon. The School is scheduled to run from Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June to Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> June inclusive and you would, of course, be very welcome to participate in all, or some, of the sessions.

The Course Director, Bernice McCabe, who heads the hugely successful North London Collegiate School, would be delighted to provide you with further details, but I thought you might like to glance at the post-course brochure from Buxton, which I enclose for your information. I do so hope you will be able to attend as I am convinced that last year's event offered something very beneficial for all those who participated.

Yours most sincerely

Cherry



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**Rt Hon Ruth Kelly MP**

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25 March 2005

Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 22 February about your Education Summer Schools, and for the enclosed post-course brochure from Buxton.

I understand from your office that when your letter was sent, you had not yet received my letter of 14 February in which I responded to the Summer School Feasibility Study. I enclose a copy for your reference and would like to reiterate my suggestion that contact Professor David Hopkins if you would like to discuss this further.

Thank you also for your kind invitation to me to speak at this year's Summer School at Dartington Hall, Devon. Unfortunately, due to diary pressures, I will be unable to attend the event.

However, my Permanent Secretary, Sir David Normington will make every effort to be present. Mr Andrew McCully, the Delivery Director of the School Standards Group would also like to attend if you are content. Perhaps his office could be in touch with the Bernice McCabe's?

As you will know from his letter sent to you in January, Professor David Hopkins will also be attending. By then he will have taken up his post as the first HSBC iNeT Chair of International Leadership at the Institute of Education, University of London. He is very keen to participate and as well as representing the Institute of Education at the Summer School he will bring with him his experience here at DfES.

Your Obedient Servant

RUTH KELLY



MINI/00508150

**dti**

The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY

6 October 2004

HRH The Prince of Wales  
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SW1A 1BA

*Your loyal Highness,*

When we met on 17 March we talked briefly about the work of In Kind Direct which you founded to distribute surplus goods from business to the voluntary sector.

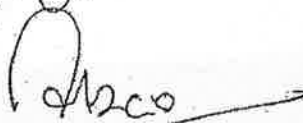
I wanted just to write and let you know that I met recently with [redacted] to hear more about In Kind Direct's work. I was impressed to hear about the scale of their operation as well as the value of the goods which have to date been donated to UK charities through this innovative service.

While my Department is unable to help In Kind Direct with their core funding, we had a useful discussion about options for the charity to leverage more support. I have alerted the Chair at South East of England Development Agency to In Kind Direct's work in case they are interested from a waste recycling perspective. We have also put them in touch with Government colleagues working on the Corporate Challenge which aims to increase the level of corporate support for community involvement including charitable giving. The aims of the Challenge align very well with the work of In Kind Direct and I understand [redacted] is following this up directly.

*I do hope In Kind Direct will be able to develop this excellent work.*

*Yours sincerely,*

PATRICIA HEWITT



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SW1H 0ET

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NINI/513082



HIGHGROVE HOUSE



8<sup>th</sup> November, 2004

Dear Patricia For Information of Chairman Staniford  
T Medawar Regh

I did just want to write and thank you so much for your letter and for finding the time to meet from In Kind Direct. I could not be more pleased that you have had the opportunity to hear from at first-hand, of the valuable work which I.K.D. does and I am particularly grateful that you put in touch with the Chairman of the South East of England Development Agency. I have no doubt that there is much potential for the two to work together in the same way that In Kind Direct is working with two other Regional Development Agencies.

has already told me that has followed up your kind suggestion that talks to the Government's "Corporate Challenge" team and I look forward to hearing how this progresses. It certainly seems to go to the very heart of what I was trying to achieve in establishing In Kind Direct some eight years ago. But if has no success with the Corporate Challenge Team, you may be hearing from me again!

This comes, as ever, with my warmest good wishes and thanks for your time and help with In Kind Direct.

Yours ever  
Hannah



BIRKHALL

6th September, 2004

*Dear Paul,*

It was so good of you to put me up at Hillsborough for two nights last week and I can't thank you enough for your kind hospitality, not to mention that most illuminating dinner you gave for me. As always, it was a great pleasure to meet so many people during my visit and I am most grateful to all your people for the trouble they take over these exercises.

I much valued our discussion just before I left on Friday morning and am so glad you are going to pursue the idea of encouraging your officials – and perhaps also some planning people, road engineers and housebuilders? – to visit Poundbury, as well as Yorkshire Forward. Likewise, as we discussed, it would be splendid if some key people from the Province could attend some of my Foundation for the Built Environment's courses in London, and Michael Mehaffy is the man to contact.

I mentioned the issue of Armagh Gaol and suggested that my Phoenix Trust would be only too happy to help with any advice with regard to its conservation and re-use. And, while on the subject of gaols, I suggested that Ruithin Gaol would be a good example of the regeneration and re-use of a redundant historic site for officials to visit.

We discussed the issue of an Action-Learning Pilot Scheme which has remained in abeyance since last year, but which, if implemented, could help perhaps to break the mould of housing "ghettoes" in Northern Ireland. You may remember that both Paul Murrain, from my Foundation, and John Thompson are ready to help with this whenever you give the word!

As usual, I repeated myself – yet again – as regards the potential value to be realized from the regeneration and re-use of redundant historic landmark sites, often as catalysts for sympathetic, associated new development along the lines of Caterham Barracks in

Surrey. You said that you might consider Ebrington Barracks as a candidate for similar treatment and, if so, you might find it worthwhile to talk to Linden Homes which was the company that did the work at Caterham.

Finally, I was delighted to hear that good progress was being made in establishing a Northern Ireland version of Prime Cymru and that Julia Evans, the Chief Executive, was going to come over to talk to your officials. Hopefully, by the time of my next visit to the Province - and if I am still alive by then! - I will be able to see heartening signs of progress in all these issues we discussed...

Meanwhile, this brings you countless good wishes and, I need hardly say, apologies for pestering you about so many things.

*Yours ever*

*Manly*

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Michael Mehaffy Esq.,  
Director of Education,

Paul Murrain Esq.,  
Senior Design Director

The Phoenix Trust  
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Mrs. Jill Channer

John Thompson and Partners,  
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# Northern Ireland Office

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Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

*Manus O'Leary*

HRH Prince Charles  
Highgrove House  
Tetbury  
Gloucestershire

**RECEIVED**  
14 OCT 2004  
**PRIVATE OFFICE**

*Sos L.B.  
Angela Smith  
Richard Rogers*

13 October 2004

*SOS 22/10*

*Your Royal Highness,*

Thank you for your 6 September 2004 letter as a follow-up to your visit to Northern Ireland. I am grateful to you for taking the time to write to me about the issues we discussed and for sending the contact details for your Foundation, John Thompson and Partners, and the Phoenix Trust. I have also passed on your thanks to those individuals responsible for the arrangements for your visit.

I am also grateful for the offer of support of your Phoenix Trust in relation to Armagh Gaol.

I am aware that some of my Ministers have been corresponding with you on some of the areas we talked about. Angela Smith has identified two principal architects, one in the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure and another in the Department of the Environment, who will liaise with Michael Mehaffy in order to attend the appropriate courses offered by your Foundation for the Built Environment.

You will be interested to know that, following Angela Smith's visit to Caterham earlier this year, Angela will visit Ebrington Barracks shortly to help inform deliberations about the way forward for this landmark site.

Finally, with regard to establishing an NI version of Prime Cymru, I understand that Julia Evans is due to visit Northern Ireland on 14 October for further talks with Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment officials here. As you say, I hope I will be able to report some signs of progress by the time of your next visit.

*Tom Swand  
Paul Murphy*

**RT HON PAUL MURPHY MP**  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

18 [Evan]



CLARENCE HOUSE  
LONDON SW1A 1BA

From: The Assistant Private Secretary to HRH The Prince of Wales

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT |                    |
| MINISTER                                | SOS                |
| LEAD                                    | <del>V...</del>    |
| ACTION                                  | 131/0              |
| Permanent Secretary                     | SRADP              |
| Grade 3 (BJ)                            |                    |
| Head of Information                     |                    |
| Private Secretary                       | NO                 |
| MSU - file                              | File Number<br>C 1 |

**RESTRICTED: ENGAGEMENTS (until 18 December 2004)**

5 October 2004

Dear Heather,

I understand from Kathy Hasler at The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment that she has been in touch with you in the last days to invite your Secretary of State to attend a conference to be hosted by the Foundation at Shoreditch on Thursday, 18 November entitled "Local Identity in a Fast Track Age". The aim of the day is to create a set of practical recommendations on how to balance local identity with the need for more efficient, low-cost, fast-track production techniques for housing.

Knowing the Secretary of State's interest in, and recognition of, 'local identity', The Prince of Wales thought that the Minister might welcome an invitation to join the delegates for some, or all, of the event to provide a perspective on this specific and vital aspect of urban design. Indeed, His Royal Highness wondered whether the Secretary of State might wish to say a few words, say 3-4 minutes' duration, on her perspective immediately before His Royal Highness speaks?

Last year, the Foundation hosted a similar conference at which the Deputy Prime Minister spoke; that conference led to a positive partnership working between the ODPM and the Foundation, as well as an urban design skills training workshop which is now successfully touring seven of the Regional Development Agencies. The conference this year will be attended by 100 or so senior practitioners in urban design and architecture, including leaders of the RDAs and Government agencies, NGOs, house-builders and developers; I have asked Kathy to send you some further details.

I know The Prince of Wales would be delighted if the Secretary of State were able to attend perhaps the afternoon session of the conference when he is present and I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience once you have had a moment to discuss it with your Minister. I should also indicate that His Royal Highness has also asked me to invite the Minister for Housing and Planning, Keith Hill MP (whom he met recently when he showed the Minister around Poundbury) given his policy responsibilities and I am waiting to hear from his Private Office to see if that is possible.

Yours sincerely,  
Paul Kefford

Ms Heather Rogers

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C04/12911/04847/DC

Paul Kefford  
Assistant Private Secretary to HRH The Prince of Wales  
Clarence House  
LONDON  
SW1A 1BA

19 October 2004



Dear Paul

Thank you for your letter of 5 October 2004 inviting my Secretary of State to attend The Prince's Foundation's conference 'The Place of Dwellings: local identity in a fast-track age' on 18 November.

Local identity and the built environment are topics the Secretary of State has a very keen interest in and she would have been delighted to attend the conference and to address the audience.

Unfortunately, due to a longstanding diary commitment, the Secretary of State won't be able to attend the conference and sends her sincerest apologies.

I have copied this letter to Kathy Hasler and Michael Mehaffy at The Prince's Foundation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heather'.

HEATHER ROGERS OBE  
Principal Private Secretary

1/21 = MWR

+ 101

cc Kathy Hasler  
Michael Mehaffy  
Heather Rogers

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C04/06807/DC

HRH The Prince of Wales KG KT GCB  
Clarence House  
LONDON  
SW1A 1BA

20<sup>th</sup> February 2005



Sir

I am aware that you wrote to Sir Neil Cossons in March last year, expressing support for the listing of the General Market and Annexe buildings at Smithfield Market.

After careful consideration of this evidence, and advice from English Heritage, I have decided to list, at Grade II, the Red House cold store for the reasons set out in the attached decision letter. For example, the Red House is now believed to be the earliest example of a powered, purpose-built cold store in the country, and its exterior contributes to the architectural and historic interest of the Market as a whole.

I share your concern about the fate of these buildings, and whilst the General Market and lavatory block do not appear to be of sufficient architectural and historic merit to meet the listing criteria in their own right, I consider that they nevertheless provide an important contribution to the character of this historic area. I have therefore written to the Deputy Prime Minister, suggesting that he call in the conservation area consent application for the demolition of these three buildings.

LMB grow minus  
Yms

TB12. Jan 2005

TESSA JOWELL

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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24 [Evan G]



HIGHGROVE HOUSE

27<sup>th</sup> March, 2005

*Dear Tessa,*

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of 28th February and the welcome news of the listing of the Red House cold store at Smithfield Market.

Needless to say, I was extremely glad to read of your appreciation of the value of this group of buildings. As you know, I attach the greatest importance to preserving, restoring and re-using such precious heritage townscapes and I can only pray that the Deputy Prime Minister will take your advice and give the most careful consideration to development plans. I shall follow what ensues with the greatest possible interest, particularly in view of what happened at Bishopsgate Goods Yard...

*Just expediate*

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE,<br>MEDIA AND SPORT  |                   |
| REGISTER  | <i>Sol</i>        |
| LEAD  | <i>H Reeves</i>   |
| ACTION  | <i>info</i>       |
| Permanent Secretary<br>Grade 3 <i>AD</i><br>Head of Information<br>Private Secretary <i>(H)</i> | <i>F Mink</i>     |
| File Number   | <i>C 1 10950.</i> |

*Murray*

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BIRKHALL

30th March, 2005

*Dear Teresa,*

Earlier this month, while I was in New Zealand, I sat next to the Prime Minister, Helen Clark, at a dinner in Government House and she raised with me the work the New Zealand Heritage Trust has been doing to conserve the Antarctic huts which Scott and Shackleton built as the base for their great polar expeditions in the early years of the last century. From her description, and from others involved in the project whom I met separately in Australia, these clearly constitute a unique heritage – and I entirely agree with her evidently strongly-held conviction that all those nations connected to that heroic era of exploration should be involved in some way in the efforts to contribute to the huts' preservation.

I realize only too well that this funding issue has been raised at various levels by the New Zealanders and others, and that it poses some difficult questions – both for your Department, and for the Heritage Lottery Fund, which I gather is not constituted to help projects overseas. But, on the other hand, I thought there was something called “The Government of the British Antarctic Territory,” which must mean that there is some British Territory to be “governed!” So I am at a loss to understand how this restoration project can be correctly described as “overseas?” Whatever the case, and however futile my plea to you for a bit of imaginative flexibility in the interpretation of these rules, I just wanted to emphasize the iconic importance of these huts in those great Antarctic journeys, which will surely resonate strongly in the public

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imagination -- particularly as the centenary of these famous explorers' endeavours approaches.

I promised Helen Clark I would raise this issue with you -- so I have! But if there really is nothing that can be done via your Department and the H.L.F., do you at least know of any organizations, associations or wealthy individuals who might be prevailed upon to help? I shall investigate this possibility myself, but it would clearly assist the process if there could be some indication of whether a degree of matching funding could be available to act as an incentive?

Yours affectionately  
Murray

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8th September, 2004

*A Dear Sir*

It was a great pleasure to get you both to Birkhall for tea last weekend and to discuss various issues. I thought it might be helpful if, as usual, I put them in writing...

The main issue that we talked about was agriculture. I mentioned to you the anxieties which are developing, particularly amongst beef farmers and to a lesser degree sheep farmers, of the consequences of the Mid Term Review. There is no doubt that decoupling support from production provides many opportunities, but it is also creating some real fears amongst the livestock sector. As you know, beef farmers were particularly heavily subsidized and the worry is that the removal of specific livestock support may mean that farmers will decide it is simply not worthwhile rearing animals. If this happened the large areas of the countryside dependent on beef and sheep farming will change beyond all recognition. As with all these things, a balance has to be struck. You know that I have been an advocate of the principles behind the Mid Term Review, but as we agreed right at the start, the method of implementation of the new regime is what will make all the difference. I discussed with you some relatively simple steps which I think could be taken to ameliorate the situation and ensure that help is given to ease the transition to the new world. If I may, I shall list them:

- a) Every support must be given to beef farmers so that they can seize the new opportunities and cope with the reduction in support – in other words they must be encouraged to co-operate and learn about marketing. The English Farming and Food Partnerships is working hard in this area, but I wondered if it would be possible for the Government to channel funds specifically to help the beef sector through the existing Agricultural Development Scheme? As I understand it, through this mechanism the Government can grant-assist groups of farmers to start marketing or other initiatives. Inevitably, such help needs to be advertized widely so that the maximum number of farmers are encouraged to benefit from the funding and advice available.

- b) Sufficient support needs to be provided to hill farmers who play a particularly crucial role in maintaining the beauty and the communities of the uplands. The dry stone walls, the unique livestock management practices, such as hefting of sheep, and the social fabric of these areas are utterly dependent upon these farmers. If they are to care for the land in the way that the public would wish and improve their own competitiveness and marketing, the Hill Farming Allowance, which currently exists alongside the new Single Farm Payment, must remain. There is a growing sense of anxiety that the Treasury will try to stop it once the S.F.P. is in place and I cannot overemphasize just how important it is that this support remains in place.
  
- c) Essential to livestock farmers is access to a sufficient infrastructure of livestock markets, abattoirs and cutting facilities, particularly if they are to respond as we would want to the growing opportunities for direct selling and collaborative marketing. Indeed, this was one of the recommendations in Don Curry's original report. I am sure that Regional Development Agencies could do more in this area, and any encouragement which they could be given by central Government would be much appreciated by the livestock sector.
  
- d) So much depends on the consumer demanding British produce and I only wish that more could be done to encourage people to buy British and to understand that it is only with their support that British agriculture and the countryside will survive. I know that European Rules preclude the Government from running a campaign to promote, solely, British produce but, for all that, it would be splendid if the Government could find innovative ways to give the necessary lead.
  
- e) Public procurement of beef is an obvious area in which the Government could make a substantial difference to the beef sector. For instance, I understand that the Ministry of Defence is now sourcing a proportion of beef from British suppliers, but no doubt more could be done.
  
- f) I have raised with you on a number of occasions the importance of reducing the bureaucratic and administrative burden on farmers, and you have been most reassuring in your replies. Suffice it to say that any pressure which you can bring to bear on

D.E.F.R.A. through the Panel for Regulatory Accountability, which you told me you are chairing, would be much appreciated. Vigilance is essential to help officials resist returning to type!

I also mentioned to you the increasing problems affecting the dairy sector. I have been speaking to a number of different people about what could be done to ameliorate the situation and there is no doubt that one major problem appears to be the Office of Fair Trading. As you know, the dairy sector is going through a major rationalization and many existing farmer-owned co-operatives are expanding as farmers increasingly understand that by working together they have more power to deal with processors and retailers. Unfortunately, I am told that the Office of Fair Trading is becoming a serious obstacle to developing dairy co-operatives of the necessary size and influence. As I understand it, it sees the United Kingdom as ring-fenced with the Channel acting as a barrier to imports, which is, of course, ridiculous. The O.F.T.'s view is that it will oppose any company which looks like exceeding twenty-five per cent of the U.K. market share. Meanwhile, in Europe, particularly Denmark and Germany where co-operatives are more established, competition law is being interpreted entirely differently and there is one co-operative in Denmark that has a ninety per cent market share! This may be somewhat excessive, but unless United Kingdom co-operatives can grow sufficiently the processors and retailers will continue to have the farmers in an arm lock and we will continue to shoot ourselves in the foot! You did kindly say that you would look at this and see if there was anything which could be done to help the O.F.T. to take a wider view.

Finally, I did raise an entirely different subject to do with the resources available for our Armed Forces. I mentioned to you that during a recent visit to Northern Ireland I was able to see the hugely impressive airborne surveillance capability provided by the Armed Forces in the Province and, increasingly, in support of British Forces in Iraq. In particular, I saw the Army Air Corps's "Oxbow" equipment, which is a major advance in surveillance technology. The aim of the Ministry of Defence and the Army Air Corps to deploy this equipment globally is, however, being frustrated by the poor performance of the existing Lynx aircraft in high temperatures. Despite this, the procurement of a new aircraft to replace the Lynx is subject to further delays and uncertainty due to the significant pressure on the Defence Budget. I fear that this is just one more example of where our Armed Forces are being asked to do an extremely challenging job (particularly in Iraq) without the necessary resources.

I do apologize for writing at such length. Meanwhile, I cannot tell you how grateful I am to you for agreeing to give my Business and the Environment Programme's Tenth Anniversary Lecture next Tuesday, and I am particularly pleased that Mrs. Blair will also be coming to Clarence House for the reception and dinner afterwards, although I do understand that you both have to slip off after my speech, which I will now be giving before dinner.

Yours ever

Manny



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

11 October 2004

THE PRIME MINISTER

*Dear Prince Charles,*

Thank you very much for your letter of 8 September, following up our discussion. As ever I found your points constructive and thought provoking.

Can I start, though, by thanking you and your staff – on behalf of Cherie and myself – for the organisation and hospitality around the Business and Environment programme 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary lecture. It proved to be the ideal audience for what I wanted to say, and has once again proved how farsighted you were in setting the programme up.

Before going onto your detailed points, I should say that I am generally very encouraged by the way the farming community are starting to look for solutions to issues themselves rather than looking automatically to government. The maturity of approach in the NFU leadership over the poor harvest for example suggests that much of what we have both been trying to achieve has started to bear fruit. Successful implementation of the CAP deal is now, as you recognise, our top farming priority. We must not only get the processes right, but win hearts and minds as well – and the presentation of the Entry level scheme and the whole farm plan will be very important here.



In this vein you raised specifically the issue of beef farmers. I agree with you that EAFP are starting to do some good work. Where I might take a slightly different approach is on possible support for the industry. At present, I understand that the main problem in the UK market is undersupply of beef. But if we lift the over Thirty Month scheme, this will change dramatically. So my priority is to work towards help for beef farmers to re-establish their markets post OTMS, rather than in the very immediate future. The Meat and Livestock Commission will have an important role here.

I agree with you that we must continue to support hill farmers, and their role in maintaining some of our most valuable habitats and environments. I understand that the Hill Farm Allowance will continue until 2007, and that consultation on a replacement regime will start from the basis that a similar quantum of support will be needed for hill farmers thereafter.

I hope we have started to turn the corner on infrastructure support for local produce – and I agree that the benefit of promoting local sourcing is markedly reduced without this. Martin will share a detailed note on this with including a number of cases where processing and marketing grant and/or the rural enterprise scheme have made a difference.

Your mention of the RDAs was interesting. I hope the transfer of money from DEFRA for them to cover rural issues will provide an incentive for them to really get to grips with the issues of rural economic performance. But it is clear they need in some cases to up their game.

As you know, I have long been a supporter of the red tractor and of local sourcing as means of promoting British food. I think we are making progress on each of these, and the new leadership and governance of the red tractor is starting to make an impact. The armed forces' record in using British food is much understated, but I will see if we can do more on beef in particular, to coincide with any lifting of the OTMS.

I also think we are beginning to up our game more generally on public sector food procurement. Regional training workshops should start next month, Larry Whitty is setting up a national suppliers network. The Government Offices are working well on promoting good procurement of food, and the locally sourced school meals agenda is definitely moving forward. Finally, the MLC report that 60% of local authorities claim to have adopted sustainable development criteria in their food purchasing.

We remain at one on the importance of reducing bureaucracy and administrative burden on farmers. I hope that the ending of IACS forms with the introduction of the new single farm payment will herald a step reduction in red tape. It should be followed by the whole farm plan, with a one-stop shop for farmers' interactions with regulators. But DEFRA need to do more, and we are working with them to deliver a really good strategic approach to regulation.

Finally, on agriculture, you raised the issue of milk. I hear different stories about the OFT attitude and part of the perception that they are a problem may well stem from the period in the immediate aftermath of Milk Marque. Of course, as you recognise, they are rightly an independent body and I couldn't influence them even if I wanted to. I also welcome the proposed Q&A for

farmers from the OFT, and their private willingness to talk to co-operatives, on a without prejudice basis. But I understand you have your own channels of information, and would welcome any further information you get on the subject.

I am of course also aware that the price of milk has been depressed for some time. It may be that the single farm payment will help here.

On the subject of the Lynx helicopter, the limitations of the existing platform, particularly in the extremely challenging environment within Iraq, are well recognised by the Ministry of Defence. Nevertheless, we do have four Lynx Mk9 helicopters from 1 Regiment Army Air Corps deployed alongside Chinook and Puma with the Joint Helicopter Force (Iraq) and, as necessary, we do seek to improve the surveillance capabilities available to our deployed forces through the Urgent Operational Requirement process.

In the longer term, the programme to replace the capability provided by the Lynx has been absorbed into a new Future Rotorcraft Capability programme. This seeks to consider holistically the overarching future capability requirement for helicopters and to deliver a more coherent future programme, avoiding some of the pitfalls that we have encountered in the past where a number of individual projects have found themselves in competition for priority within the Equipment Programme. While the Ministry of Defence clearly has to operate within finite resources, our planned investment in future helicopters will be substantial – around £3 billion over the next ten years and over £6 billion over the coming two decades. Replacement of the Lynx and Gazelle reconnaissance and surveillance capabilities will be a priority for this programme, which will also seek to deliver

a future fleet that is fully capable of deployment in all anticipated operational environments.

I hope this is of some help and  
I much enjoyed your speech to the  
dinner as a dramatic change,

Yours truly,  
Tony

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales KG KT GCB AK QSO ADC



CLARENCE HOUSE

⑤

MH  
c VB  
JTB  
IR

24th February, 2005

Dear Home Minister,

It was very good to see you again the other day and, as usual, I much enjoyed the opportunity to talk about a number of issues. You kindly suggested that it would be helpful if I put them in writing – despite the Freedom of Information Act!

We discussed at some length the agricultural situation. The most pressing and urgent problem is, without doubt, the rising numbers of T.B. cases in cattle. As I think I mentioned, T.B. is affecting 5,000 farms each year, 20,000 head of cattle are being slaughtered and the cost to the taxpayer is £100 million annually. As you know, all the evidence is that T.B. is caused and spread by badgers. You said that you were aware of the recent study in the Republic of Ireland which proved that badger culling is effective in ridding cattle of T.B. – in Donegal, for instance, by the fifth year of the trial there was a 96 per cent reduction of cattle infection in the badger “removal” areas.

I know that the Government is planning shortly to announce a ten-year strategic framework for the control of the disease but, as far as I can tell, there is no evidence that this will include a commitment to deal with the badger problem in the immediate future, although there is a strong rumour that the Government may be intending to reduce the levels of compensation to farmers, something which, I happen to think, would be less than fair and would provoke real anger amongst farmers. Apart from the appalling waste of valuable cattle, I explained to you my real fear that unless something is done urgently we could end up with another food scare and I know you remember only too well the consequences of B.S.E. and F.M.D.... Certainly, the raw milk cheese-producers, many of whom have established their businesses in an effort to diversify their farms, which is what the Government wants, are deeply fearful of what may happen to them and I know that Sir John Krebs, the outgoing Chairman of the Food Standards Agency, shares their fears. So all I can say is that I do

urge you to look again at introducing a proper cull of badgers where it is necessary. I, for one, cannot understand how the "badger lobby" seem to mind not at all about the slaughter of thousands of expensive cattle, and yet object to a managed cull of an over-population of badgers - to me, this is intellectually dishonest.

I also mentioned to you the sheer weight of bureaucracy under which farmers are labouring at the moment as the new Single Farm Payment comes into force. It is causing much anxiety and I know how strongly you feel about the need to cut bureaucracy where possible, especially in your role as Chairman of the Panel for Regulatory Accountability. You said that this was something you might look into, so I thought it could be helpful if I just listed the documentation that farmers have received in recent weeks, and this is in addition to new regulations on fallen dead stock and a consultation paper on waste controls:

S.F.P. November update - 31 pages

S.F.P. Cross compliance handbook - 52 pages

S.F.P. Set Aside handbook - 39 pages

S.F.P. Cross Compliance Guidance for Soil Management - 40 pages

S.F.P. Cross Compliance Guidance for the Management of Habitat and Landscape Features - 48 pages

Consultation paper on agriculture waste regulations - 19 pages.

I also told you about the Rural Payments Agency's recent announcement that it would not be able to send out the first Single Farm Payment cheques until next February at the earliest, largely because of computer shortcomings. This is painful for all farmers, but particularly tenant farmers who normally delay paying their rent until, under the old system, the subsidy cheques arrived. I told you that the National Farmers' Union had suggested a small interim payment to tide farmers over and I do think that this is something well worth considering to reduce hardship and uncertainty.

You have heard me tell you on so many occasions about the importance of the family farmers, particularly those who reside in the upland areas. These are, without doubt, the most beautiful areas of the country which tourists flock to see, and yet they are the most

difficult areas to farm and are most disadvantaged in every way for those who live there. That is why I am doing what I can to help them manage under the new regime, not least by trying to persuade companies to second someone who can help galvanize these farmers so that we can break what is, in all too many cases, a cycle of despair and hopelessness. They need all possible help to learn to co-operate, to market more effectively and to make the most in business terms of the beautiful areas within which they live.

I also mentioned to you my anxiety about this country's lack of self-sufficiency in staple foods, such as meat and vegetables. Recent trade figures showed a decline of 12 per cent over the decade falling from 86 per cent in 1994 to 74 per cent in 2004, and only 64 per cent for all food. On both environmental and economic grounds this has to be a worrying trend, let alone from the point of view of this country's food security.

We also discussed at some length the behaviour of the retailers and in recent months there have been some particularly shocking examples, some of which would appear to be in contravention of the existing statutory Supermarket Code of Practice. There is no doubt that the dominant position of the retailers is the single biggest issue affecting British farmers and the food chain, and if it is not dealt with all the other good work which has been going on risks becoming virtually useless. I know that Margaret Beckett recently made clear that the Government was less than pleased by what had been happening and indicated that she supported the idea being mooted amongst some of the leaders of the agriculture community, not least [redacted] and the National Farmers' Union, that a voluntary "Buyer's Charter" should be created to address the issues of reasonableness and fair play within the food chain. I understand that the proposal would be for an independent arbitrator to be appointed to deal with individual complaints in an entirely private way. I suggested that it might be worth considering [redacted] for this role.

[redacted] might have the time to do it and I would think [redacted] would have all the necessary skills for the job...

We spoke also about the enormous problem of climate change and the remarkable leadership role which you are taking in this area with the U.K.'s Presidency this year of the G8 and the European Union, for which I can only congratulate you. As I mentioned, there is a particular worry that the Government's recent decision to revise its National Allocation Plan may undermine some of your good work and I know that this is something about which the N.G.O.s, who are so supportive of the work you are doing, are equally concerned. Nevertheless, do rest assured that you have a great deal of support and all I would say is that you may find it worthwhile to explore not just what industry can do to cut emissions, but also the wider community. Energy efficiency could make a huge difference and would engage the public in the whole subject in a way that simply focussing on industry's role will not.

We also discussed the built environment and, in particular, the uncertainty as to how the approximately one hundred National Health hospitals will be redeveloped for housing under the Government's plans. As I mentioned, it is so important both in order to secure the maximum economic benefit and to provide places and communities in which people want to live, that this is done with great care and thought. I like to think that my Foundation for the Built Environment is one of the leading sources of expertise in this area and you kindly said that the Chief Executive, Mr. Hank Dittmar, might come in to brief your advisers on this important issue.

We briefly mentioned the European Union Directive on Herbal Medicines, which is having such a deleterious effect on the complementary medicine sector in this country by effectively outlawing the use of certain herbal extracts. I think we both agreed this was using a sledgehammer to crack a nut. You rightly asked me what could be done about it and I am asking the Chief Executive of my Foundation for Integrated Health to provide a more detailed briefing which I hope to be able to send shortly so that your advisers can look at it. Meanwhile, I have given Martin Hurst a note suggesting someone he could talk to who runs the Herbal Practitioners' Association.

*I apologise for the length of this letter!*

*Yours ever*

*W. H. M. M.*





10 DOWNING STREET  
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~~Handwritten mark~~ File

THE PRIME MINISTER

30 March 2005

Dear Prince Charles,

Thank you very much for your letter following up on our enjoyable conversation. As you know, I always value and look forward to your views – but perhaps particularly on agricultural topics.

You raised first the issue of bovine TB, and the link to badgers. The Irish trials have indeed changed everything here, as I know Ben Bradshaw acknowledges. The crucial thing is now rapidly to work up the full case for action, so as to enable an early decision. (If we do not work through the case properly we will be challenged in the courts.) While I can personally see the case for culling badgers, I would not want to prejudge the decision. But I am not prepared to tolerate unnecessary delay, and I know, again, that Ben agrees.

Martin will give a note outlining what Defra are doing on farmer bureaucracy. I think that Defra are starting to get their act together - on the cross compliance regulations, they did for example ask farmers how they preferred to get advice and the clear answer was for guidance leaflets, which they could refer to as they wished. But I hold no brief for the size of the guidance!

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And Defra's research shows a two thirds drop in form filling time – including cross compliance – compared with the old system. I take this with a heavy pinch of salt, but even so it is encouraging that they are, at least, seeking to ask these questions. But that said, I share your feeling that there are some unreconstructed regulators still around, which is why we insisted that the Defra 5 year plan include a pledge to cut farming red tape by 25 per cent. It is also very important that Defra analyse what they are doing against the cumulative burdens they are placing on the sectors of farming – some of which simply cannot cope with more regulation at present. I can promise you that my Panel for Regulatory Accountability will stay firmly on the case.

You raised too the issue of delay to the Single farm payment and a possible interim payment. I have a lot of sympathy with this idea, particularly for tenant farmers and new entrants, neither of whom have the kind of asset base that might lead banks to be sympathetic. The only issue is whether we can find a way of doing it that does not delay the main payment further, but I really don't think this is insoluble. Defra are working on ideas, and I have said I want to be kept in the loop.

You may be aware that the picture on self-sufficiency is proving rather more complex than either of us thought when we spoke. I think the figures need unpicking: I believe [redacted] agrees. Martin and [redacted] will work with further on this.

I am very grateful for the work you are doing for family farms, particularly in upland areas. I saw many of these farms myself during FMD. Diversification beyond traditional farm business – including in the area of

tourism - is indeed part of the answer. If you find barriers to this do let me know. And I have long believed that farmers need to co-operate more, in order to equalise the negotiating power up the food chain and to minimise costs. I think EFPF are starting to do good work here.

I have on occasion expressed precisely the concern about retailers 'arm lock' on suppliers that you express so well. I know too that after something of an improvement things have recently got worse. As you may be aware (and this was the main reason why I have delayed writing until now) the OFT issued its report on this subject on Tuesday. I would not pretend that the report is earth-shattering in any way. But it is I think useful, in two respects. First it keeps the issue very firmly open, with comments sought on their findings by the end of May. Second it explicitly acknowledges the case for a voluntary 'buyers charter' of the kind you and Margaret Beckett have both espoused. We can and will now more easily run with a voluntary code.

I agree with you that energy efficiency can have a much larger role to play in our domestic action on climate change. The Budget supported this, as will forthcoming work on the sustainable buildings code: making a reality of energy efficiency in new buildings. I am also keen to see a bigger role for biocrops, provided we can avoid promoting monocultures.

I am really grateful for the suggestion that my staff meet Hank Dittmar. Martin and Miles Gibson met him earlier this week and were very impressed. They will help Hank with any blockages in Whitehall.

Thanks too for your contacts on herbal medicines – who have been sensible and constructive. They feel that the directive itself is sound and the UK regulators excellent, but are absolutely correct in saying that the implementation as it is currently planned is crazy. We can do quite a lot here: we will delay implementation for all existing products to 2011; we will take more of the implementation upon ourselves; and I think we can sort out the problems in the technical committee - where my European experts have some very good ideas. We will be consulting with your contacts and others on the best way to do this – we simply cannot have burdensome regulation here.

[Redacted by order of the Upper Tribunal]

Yours ever,  
Tony

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales KG KT GCB AK QSO ADC