

MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE

Prime Minister

This move will make the FCO and its posts responsible for the management of its own estate, and is supported by Derek Rayner. Cabinet Meet Officials should be asked to work up the details?



26 May 1982

LM  
26/5

Prime Minister

Last year, private sector members of a joint team studying the management of the overseas diplomatic estate suggested that the function should pass from me and the PSA to the Foreign Secretary and the FCO. This was later supported by Derek Rayner.

I have now discussed the question with Douglas Hurd and Leon Brittan and we have agreed in principle that, if you are content, the change should be made. We have no doubt that FCO will respond positively to being given responsibility for this aspect of their affairs, and a certain amount of duplication now existing between Ministers and officials ought also to be eradicated.

We would like to proceed towards implementation by the start of the next financial year and intend asking an official committee from the 3 Departments concerned (PSA, FCO and Treasury) supplemented by someone from the private sector, to report with a worked-up scheme by the end of the Summer recess. There are machinery of Government implications, but we do not at present see the need for legislation. I should be very grateful for your agreement to our going ahead on this basis.

Copies of this minute go to Leon Brittan, Douglas Hurd and Derek Rayner.

Go ahead  
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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

16 June, 1982

Transfer of Responsibility for the Diplomatic  
Estate

Thank you for your letter of 14 June.  
As I said on the telephone yesterday, the  
Prime Minister was content for the answer  
to be given as proposed.

**M. A. PATTISON**

Mrs. Helen Ghosh,  
Department of the Environment

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2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref:

Your ref:

14 June 1982

Dear Mike,

TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DIPLOMATIC  
ESTATE

We spoke on Friday about arrangements for an announcement of the transfer of responsibility for the Diplomatic Estate from PSA to FCO, which the Prime Minister has approved. I attach the draft Written Answer which we now propose to answer tomorrow, Tuesday 15 June, if the Prime Minister is content. As I said, Treasury are content that my Secretary of State should answer.

yours,

Helen Ghosh

MRS H GHOSH  
Private Secretary

Mike Pattison Esq, No 10

To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment whether he proposes to make any changes in the present arrangements for the management of the Overseas Diplomatic Estate.

DRAFT ANSWER

Following an inter-Departmental study, my Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister has agreed that responsibility for the management of this estate should pass from the Property Services Agency to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Detailed arrangements for the transfer, effective from 1 April next, are now being worked out. Trade Union sides in both Departments are being consulted.



10 DOWNING STREET

28 May 1982

*From the Private Secretary*

MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE

MANAGEMENT OF THE OVERSEAS DIPLOMATIC ESTATE

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's minute of 26 May. She is content that matters should now go ahead on the basis set out therein.

I am sending copies of this letter to Terry Mathews (Chief Secretary's Office), Stephen Lamport (FCO) and Clive Priestley (MPO), and to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. A. PATTISON

David Edmonds, Esq.,  
Department of the Environment.