



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2BT

Royal Fam

14 July 1981

Dear John

1. Mr. Arthur

To see

2. Mr. ...

Mr. ...
is in

DUCHY OF CORNWALL MANAGEMENT BILL

As you will know, the Marquess of Lothian, accompanied by Lord Franks, called on the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster yesterday morning to discuss the position of this Bill in relation to next Session's legislative programme. Mr Collinson from the Treasury was also present. I set out below a summary of the conversation.

The Marquess of Lothian explained that the Duchy of Cornwall Bill was designed to remedy the long-standing deficiencies in the powers of the Duke of Cornwall. It would be short and uncontroversial. It was not the intention to update and repair the existing legislation, but to grant to the Duke powers similar in nature to those already enjoyed by the Crown Estates and by universities' and colleges' estates. A revised draft of the Bill would very shortly be available from Parliamentary Counsel. In view of the imminent marriage of the Prince of Wales, the Marquess of Lothian suggested that 1981 would be a most appropriate year for this Bill to be enacted.

The Chancellor of the Duchy explained that the Government's legislative programme for the next Session of Parliament was under very heavy pressure. It had already proved necessary to postpone several desirable Government measures and he regretted that it would therefore not be possible for the Duchy of Cornwall Bill to be given a place in the programme.

Following a short discussion, the Chancellor of the Duchy summarised the position. The proposed Bill was not suitable for handing to a Private Member. However, he did not rule out the possibility that it might be introduced as a second reading committee Bill if soundings suggested that this procedure would not be widely challenged. He would arrange for this possibility

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John Wiggins Esq
Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer



to be explored. It was unfortunate that pressure of legislation prevented the inclusion of the Bill in the main programme for 1981/82. Nevertheless it was helpful that the Bill was already drafted and ready for introduction. Should an unforeseen gap appear in the Government's programme during the coming Session, he would of course consider taking advantage of such an opportunity to enact the Bill.

I am copying this letter to Mike Pattison (Number Ten), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and Leonard Harris (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever Nick Huxtable

N P M HUXTABLE
Private Secretary

15 JUL 1981

