



With the Compliments
of the
Private Secretary
to the
Lord Privy Seal



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VBP/M

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

27 February 1984

New Richard,

ACCEPTANCE OF OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS BY CROWN SERVANTS

I mentioned to you on the telephone that the Lord Privy Seal was due to see Mr Terence Higgins MP this evening, in the latter's capacity as Chairman of the Liaison Committee, and proposed to mention to him the request to Lord Diamond to give evidence to the Sub-Committee of the Treasury and Civil Service Committee.

In the event, the matter was referred to only briefly. In the course of a general discussion of the Select Committees the Lord Privy Seal mentioned that he was aware of the invitation to Lord Diamond, which obviously had given rise to some reservations because of the confidential nature of the advice given by the Advisory Committee. He also said that, if Lord Diamond did appear, it would clearly need to be on the well-established basis that advice to Ministers had to remain confidential. Mr Higgins did not demur and observed that, unless he had misjudged him, Lord Diamond would be well able to look after himself. There was no discussion of the request by the Sub-Committee which is referred to in paragraphs 5 and 9-11 of Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 22 February.

As to whether Lord Diamond accepts the Sub-Committee's invitation to give evidence, the Lord Privy Seal supports the alternative course indicated in paragraph 8 of Sir Robert's minute.

I am copying this letter to Robin Butler (No 10) and Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's office).

*Yours ever,
D.C.R.*

D C R HEYHOE
Private Secretary

Richard Hatfield Esq
Sir Robert Armstrong's Office

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