



CGBC

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE YORK ROAD LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-934 9000

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

// awaiting Treasury draft
 10/4

10 April 1986

Dear Sir,

Thank you for letting me have a copy of your minute of 20 March ^{at Hop.} to the Prime Minister about budgeting in Government Departments.

I am content with your proposal to publish the report. I also welcome one of the points in your own letter namely that there will inevitably be differences in detail and timetables for action by Departments because of their differing tasks and priorities. It seems clear to me that a small Department like DES with a large expenditure programme may need to establish rather different control mechanisms from those Departments with large blocks of administrative and executive work (on which Mr Wilson's recommendations seem to be based). On this understanding I am happy to endorse the four principles which you identify. I hope that you can bring out in some way the need for flexibility between Departments in their approach when the report is published.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister and Cabinet colleagues, other Ministers in charge of Departments, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Robin Ibbs.

Yours,

Kear

The Rt Hon John MacGregor OBE MP
 Chief Secretary to the Treasury
 Parliament Street
 LONDON SW1P 3AG

CIVIL SERVICE Long Term Policy AT18

