

BRIDGEWATER HOUSE
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Ref

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

20th November 1980

Dear Prime Minister.

On Tuesday of this week I went to Leeds to discuss with Edward Boyle the future working of the Top Salaries Review Body in the light of our discussion with you. A possible way of working has now been approved by the Review Body and is set out in a letter to be signed by Edward and also, at his request, by me, which you should receive next week.

So far as Edward himself is concerned, he is still receiving treatment which for a time leaves him exhausted and, as a result of the most recent operation and his fall, he is still on crutches. It is his intention to come to London sometime before Christmas to take a meeting of TSRB, to do various other things in London and possibly to see you. After Christmas he hopes to be able to come more often to take the chair at meetings of TSRB. When he is not able to be there it has been agreed that I will take the chair on his behalf. We shall, however, send him all papers and consult him on a regular basis.

He is most anxious that you personally should know about the state of his health, but that it should not be known to any wider circle. I told him that when we had lunched with you I had told you personally of the state of his health, but had not and did not intend to make it more widely known. He was much reassured that you knew. I also told him of your concern.

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If you wish the Review Body to continue and to work as suggested in our joint letter, I have no doubt that for Edward to work in the way I have proposed above will allow him to continue to make a contribution to the working of TSRB. Equally important, it will also be a most important psychological support to Edward's attitude of mind which shows a determination not to give in. I hope, therefore, you will be agreeable to this way of working.

Yours sincerely
Edwin Rowden

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1 OAA



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 November, 1980.

Dear Lord Plowden,

Thank you very much for your letter of 20 November.

I look forward to receiving a letter from you and your colleagues on how the Top Salaries Review Body should operate in future.

I was also glad to hear that you were able to visit Edward Boyle earlier this week, and that he hopes to be able to come to London before Christmas to take a meeting of TSRB. I entirely agree that he should continue as Chairman, even though you may have to take the Chair from time to time.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD) MT

The Lord Plowden KCB KBE

PS I wrote to Edward last week.

RH
2/11.

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PRIME MINISTER

A letter from Lord Plowden about
TSRB: he promises to let you have a letter
next week on the future working of the TSRB,
and he asks your agreement to Edward Boyle
remaining formal Chairman, even though he
will not be able to attend any meetings until *just*
before Christmas - and then only from time to
time.

I attach a draft reply.

mb

R.

21 November, 1980

Alan Rod

FILE



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

14th Nov. 1960

Dear Edward.

A note, belated I fear, to say how much we missed you at the Top Science Review Body lunch. I enjoyed it very much and we had an interesting discussion. None of us can divorce ourselves from the performance of the economy; the problem is how to take it into account when making recommendations. I shall have to consider the specific terms of reference

Rd

and whether they could be modified in any way; further whether government should give evidence on the general economic scene. Apart from these two matters, I am very concerned that judges should be dealt with separately. Their position is unique and vital to the whole functioning of a free society.

What changes have come over the House of Commons since some day here! And I fear for the future. Last week was the first time I have ever seen a leader of the Opposition not support the throne. All good wishes.

Your own
Raymond

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Princess

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7th November 1980

*R
y/k*

18/11
Dear Prime Minister

mb.

Thank you for a most delightful lunch and for what was for us a most useful discussion.

As agreed, we will prepare a note setting out our understanding of the criteria on which we should prepare our next Report.

As you know, Edward Boyle is for the present unable to come away from Leeds and, as you will undoubtedly understand, I would want him to see the note before I send it to you. It may therefore be a few days before I can write to you again.

*Yours sincerely
David Rowden.*

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1