

st. ps/14jm23.6/lets

CONFIDENTIAL

Resigned

26/6/89



Private Office

Mr Quelchback FDX 561

Mr Capstick

Mrs Attridge

Mr Griffiths

Mr Croucher

Mr Aldrum

Mr Beckings

The Rt Hon John MacGregor OBE MP
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2HH

Mr Cockbill

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Mr McKimby

Mr Tavelyan

Miss Neville-Lofe - Paradise

Dr Knowles

Dr Dennis

Mr Garnett 23 June 1989

Mr J Griffiths

Mr Lawson

Mr Sedden

Mr Atwood Mr Dickin

Dr Slater Mr Hollis

Mr Thomas Mr Hill

Mr Coe

Mr Keslake

Mr & B Baber

Mr Yarnish

Ms Hamilton

Mr Alderton

Dear Minister

FOOD SAFETY: PROTECTING THE CONSUMER

You asked for comments on the draft White Paper on food safety attached to your letter of 16 June.

I am content for the White Paper to be published before the recess, subject to some detailed points set out below.

However, I understand that the costs associated with the proposals set out in the White Paper, and to be included in the Food Bill, have yet to be clarified, beyond the initial assessment given to MISC 138 in May. You will recall that MISC 138 envisaged that there would be further discussion between us on costs, particularly in respect of the local authorities, and ideally this should have occurred before the publication of the White Paper. While I understand the need to publish the White Paper quickly, in the circumstances the presumption must be that any costs associated with the proposals in it, including costs incurred by the local authorities, must be met from within existing public expenditure and running costs provisions.

On the details, I understand that officials have agreed that the figure for food safety research in paragraph 2.2 will be revised downwards so as to be consistent with paragraph 71 of the public expenditure White Paper; and that, in paragraph 2.8.2, the word "The" will be deleted from the beginning of the first on deer affected by tuberculosis, to avoid giving the impression that the compensation rate is the same as for cattle.

I am copying this letter to members of MISC 138, George Younger, Douglas Hurd and Robin Butler and Sir Donald Acheson.

Sir

Yours sincerely,

P. Walters

89/06.23/6.1