

CC/NO

Ref. A085/2387

MR ADDISON

CF.  
PPH/gleen  
24/9MIA - CC. R. Tibbs?  
Comments? chel 1/73  
coming 24/9File  
with  
MIA

You asked for advice on Miss Vandervord's letter of 11 September which proposed the creation of a new Management Board for the Ordnance Survey.

2. Under this proposal, the Ordnance Survey would remain a Government Department and the Secretary of State for the Environment would retain his present responsibility for it.

3. There are precedents for the creation of various types of Boards within Departments, for example the Royal Mint Management Board and the British Overseas Trade Board. Much of the impetus for the new Management Board comes from the Members of the outgoing Advisory Board, who have become dissatisfied with their role, and the Department of the Environment's proposals seem generally sound. The Department of the Environment do not, however, appear to have satisfactorily formulated the lines of responsibility and the reporting arrangements under the new structure, with the danger that this could lead to misunderstanding about accountability.

4. The need to specify responsibilities and reporting arrangements when creating a Board within a Government Department is emphasised in the new Guide for Departments on Non-Departmental Public Bodies, and it would be unfortunate if the principle were seen to be disregarded so soon after the Guide's publication.

5. Provided the Prime Minister is content in principle with the Management Board being created I think it would be useful for you to ask the Department of the Environment to prepare a statement of responsibilities and reporting arrangements which would provide a clear definition of those responsible from the





outset and avoid the danger of Board Members once again becoming dissatisfied with their role. You might also like to suggest that a brief outline description of responsibilities should be incorporated into the proposed Parliamentary Question.

MS

M C STARK

20 September 1985



Rayner: Govt Machinery  
PK-19.

GOVERNMENT