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Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP
Secretary of State
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
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25 April 1989

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT ON TOXIC WASTE:
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- five amendments

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 14 April to John Wakeham and the draft of the response to the Environment Committee's report on toxic waste.

Your officials have consulted mine on the various stages of the draft and have taken on board most of their comments. I note however that the current version of the draft does not include the latest of these, but understand that it is proposed to include a minor amendment in the final version to reflect the different position in Scotland. On that basis I am content for the response to be published.

As regards your consultation paper on the role and function of waste disposal authorities, I would be grateful if you could delay any announcement of your the conclusions until my officials have had a chance to complete their consultation process; our consultation period will come to an end on 12 May, and we shall consider our conclusions as quickly as possible thereafter.

I am copying this letter to John Wakeham, to members of H and to the Prime Minister, John MacGregor, David Young and Cecil Parkinson.

Malcolm Rifkind

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