



*Prime Minister's
Cabinet?*

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2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-276 3000

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My ref:
Your ref:

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

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23 November 1989

Dear Lord President

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BILL: RECYCLING

I have been considering how to reflect in the Environmental Protection Bill the priority we wish to attach to recycling waste, recently emphasised by the Prime Minister in her address to the United Nations.

Colleagues have already agreed the provisions relating to waste management in the Bill. I now propose to graft onto them references to recycling so that:

- there should be a presumption in favour of recycling as a means of waste disposal
- a collection authority (generally districts) should be able to arrange for the recycling of any waste unless the disposal authority (generally counties) objects and has entered into an existing contract to have that waste recycled
- a specific reference to recycling should be added to the proposed provision requiring disposal authorities to have regard to the environmental impact of the disposal method when letting contracts for the disposal of waste

- collection authorities should be required to make a recycling plan for the waste they collect, and disposal and regulation authorities should take account of recycling in their plans and reports.

These changes would not require any new clauses and can be accommodated in the waste provisions without difficulty.

I would be grateful for colleagues' agreement to these proposals by 30 November.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, other members of H Committee and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely
Chris Patten

By CHRIS PATTEN

(Approved by the Secretary of State
and signed in his absence)

