



Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NF

Telephone Direct Line 01-273.....5803.....
Switchboard 01-273 3000 GTN Code 273
Facsimile 01-273 5465 Telex 915564

22 February 1988

The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Minister of Trade and Industry
Department of Trade and Industry
1-19 Victoria Street
London SW1

INNER CITIES INFORMATION WORK

We discussed the possible release of one of my Department's press officers to work with you on the inner cities initiative. I realise the problems Neville Taylor has had in finding a suitable candidate, particularly the unwillingness of Departments to release their more able staff. My own press office is also in some difficulty, being 30 per cent below complement.

However, there is a need to put the maximum effort behind the inner cities presentation and I have agreed to release Mr Bretherton to you on two conditions. First, that he is returned to us at the end of six months. Second that we are given an immediate replacement, although not necessarily at the same grade.

If arrangements for Mr Bretherton's release are agreeable to you I will ask my officials to liaise with Neville Taylor.

There is a wider point. There needs to be a much greater degree of movement between administration and information staff. To this end I am arranging for a management trainee to be seconded to my information division for a short spell. I intend to make this a regular feature in the future.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Major.

NORMAN FOWLER