



FROM: THE RT.HON. SIR KEITH JOSEPH, Bt. MP.

KJ/SMC

Angus Maude Esq., MP.

3rd August 1978

I have seen Hugh Rossi and told him that the decision has been made not to publish a housing paper before an October election.

If the election were to be deferred then the possibility of a housing paper, in preparation for the Conference, would re-emerge but it would almost certainly need to be published under his name and, of course, subject to the approval - as to contents - of Michael Heseltine, Geoffrey Howe and me, before final approval by Margaret on her own or with any group she chose. I have thanked Hugh very much indeed for the great effort he put into producing so much, so quickly. I have told him that the over-supply of pre-election material was my fault and that the decision to publish the Referendum paper was an additional factor.

Hugh remains keen that something should be published if possible, and that to his present text, however shortened, should be added some passages on town planning and policies in connection with land. Please note that Hugh's sustained work with a number of groups, which he has chaired on town planning, is not sufficiently digested into our policy agenda.

I shall be trying, within the next few days, to put together a short note for Michael and you, and for Margaret, suggesting a few words for the Manifesto that will more nearly approximate to the proposals he and his groups have made which have, in fact, been part way through a policy mechanism.

There remains a need for the technical press of saying something on land policy - perhaps very much in line with what Hugh has already published in the Estates Gazette to widespread approval. On this I will also be writing shortly to Michael, Geoffrey and then Margaret.

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There may need to be a very slight alteration in the Manifesto draft but it will be a matter of a few words.

I am sorry to have left this important issue unresolved until now.

This letter is principally to tell you and the others concerned of the position with regard to Hugh's paper but I thought I would add the other points as well.

I am copying this letter to Hugh and also to Michael, Geoffrey and to Chris Patten. I am sending a copy also to Margaret's office for information.

C.c. Rt.Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP
Hugh Rossi Esq., MP.
M.R.D. Heseltine Esq., MP.
Chris Patten Esq.
Private Office of the Leader
of the Opposition - for info.