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29 October 1982

*Dear David,*

Family Policy Group

In my letter to you of 14 October, I said that I would aim to let you have a draft of our paper for the next meeting of the Family Policy Group in time for you to let us have comments.

Since that date, we have had meetings with most of the Departments directly concerned and also with the No. 10 Policy Unit. We have agreed with Mr Mount that he should produce a paper explaining the background to the Group, its objectives and how it is intended it should operate (i.e. its relationship to the existing structure of Cabinet Office committees). We agreed to produce a draft programme of work.

Our contribution is enclosed. As you will see, we have organised all the items in the summary list of proposals circulated to members of the Group under cover of Gerry Spence's letter of 30 September into seven priority themes and propose that each should form the basis of at least one meeting of the Group. We have drawn up also a list of "reserve" themes which we suggest might be pursued outside the Group by the Ministers concerned and perhaps discussed by the Group in a second series of meetings to be held in Autumn 1983.

Our list of themes is at Annex 1. Appendices A-H outline the scope of each and suggest issues for further work and who might take the lead in doing it. The Appendices are based principally on the suggestions put forward by members of the Group at earlier meetings and in their papers circulated to those meetings and incorporate nearly all the proposals contained in our earlier summary list. (To help you to see how each item on the list has been handled, I enclose also a copy of the list "marked up" to show what has happened to each item. I think you may find this useful for briefing purposes).

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I have agreed with No. 10 that our paper should be circulated by them on Wednesday, and, to that end, I have undertaken to let them have copies by 5 p.m. on Tuesday. We must therefore have the comments of "link persons" by close of business on Monday at the latest.

In my letter to you of 14 October, I mentioned the possibility of a meeting of "link persons" to discuss our draft programme of work and other, more general issues. There is clearly too little time to organise such a meeting before next Tuesday. But, if "link persons" would find it useful, I am inclined to arrange one for the middle of November; i.e. once the Group has approved our programme of work and we are faced with the task of preparing the papers implied by it.

I am sending copies of this letter and the enclosed material to the other "link persons" as on the list attached.

*Yours sincerely,  
G J Wasserman*

(G J WASSERMAN)

FAMILY POLICY GROUP

Departmental "LINK PERSONS"

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HM Treasury 1 Parliament Street, London, SW1P 3AG	E P Kemp	233 3016
Department of the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3EB	Mrs M McDonald	212 8219
Department of Industry, Room 378, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6RB	M J Michell	212 6896
Department of Transport, Room N9/17, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3EB	P Wood	212 4895
Department of Health and Social Security, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London, SE1 6BY	T E Nodder, CB (Health)	(2915 7337 ( Fed. 2153)
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Department of Employment, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NF	G A Brand	213 4419
No. 10 Policy Unit 10 Downing Street, London, SW1	F Mount	233 2580
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