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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Prime Minister

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Secretary of State for Trade & Industry

6 July 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 3EB

Dear Patrick,

I was pleased that you made special mention in your speech during the debate on the Address of the need to offer relief to hard-pressed business ratepayers.

2 On one issue in particular - the proposal to abolish the rating of empty industrial buildings - I believe it is essential to act quickly and forcefully to curb the nonsense of industrialists removing the roofs from empty properties. You mentioned in your speech the possibility of reducing the present 50% maximum from next April. This reduction must be to as low a figure as possible; if for technical reasons nil is not feasible, the maximum figure should be 10%.

3 I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Leon Brittan, Nigel Lawson, Keith Joseph, Norman Fowler, Norman Tebbit, Tom King, Michael Jopling, Nicholas Edwards, George Younger, Quintin Hailsham, Willie Whitelaw and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours  
Lest,  
Leon

27 JUL 1983

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