

From Sir John Sainsbury Chairman & Chief Executive

Prime Minister
A powerful letter

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SAINSBURY'S

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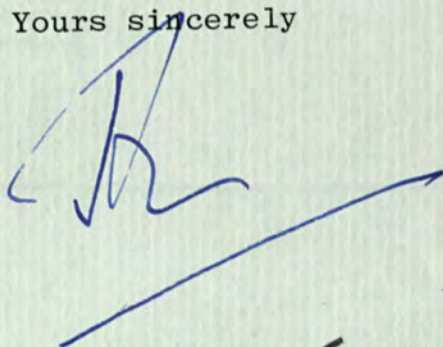
F.E.R. Butler Esq
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London S.W.1.

13 January 1984

Dear Rob

I enclose a copy of the letter I have sent to Patrick Jenkin. I hope you will feel that it is appropriate to show to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely



May I see the reply

- preferably in draft.
John Sainsbury spoke to me
in identical terms.

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Sainsbury's and Planning

Sir John Sainsbury told the Prime Minister at the lunch for businessmen on Wednesday 11 January that in the last 12 months 9 out of 10 applications by Sainsbury's for planning consent for super-stores had been turned down by the Secretary of State. This was a bigger failure rate than Sainsbury's had ever suffered before even under a Socialist Secretary of State for the Environment. Since each appeal to the Secretary of State cost a million pounds, Sainsbury's had incurred about £10 million in achieving one consent. Moreover, the average time taken from application to decision, which had been 20 months when he had been to see the Prime Minister recently, had lengthened to 22 months. *Sir John Sainsbury particularly resented those cases turned down by the planners on the basis of judgement about whether more shops were needed.*

The Prime Minister subsequently wrote a personal letter in her own hand to Mr. Jenkin about this, which she handed to Mr. Jenkin at Cabinet; Mr. Jenkin said that he would look into it.

FRB.

12 January 1984