

The Rt. Hon. Patricia Hewitt MP
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

21 September 2001

Dear Patricia,

RE: TARGETS FOR THE SOUTH EAST REGION

Please find enclosed our response to your request at our meeting on 10 July for a report on progress in setting regional outcome targets and milestones. Specifically, I enclose:

1. A document summarising our progress in setting regional outcome targets
2. Proposed text for supplementary output milestones

I am pleased to be able to report to you that we have carried out an extensive consultation exercise (Annex A) and have secured the full support of the South East England Regional Assembly, together with the County Councils, Unitary Authorities and Economic Partnerships of the South East. This exercise has helped to focus our region onto the issues and the necessity for us all to work together to meet the targets you have set us.

The process of consultation and involvement will continue as part of our discussions of SEEDA's Corporate Plan and the Review of our Regional Economic Strategy. We will be paying particular attention to involving the Business Community at all levels in setting SEEDA's objectives and the Region's targets.

I have kept David Saunders of GOSE advised throughout and have copied this letter to him.

In closing, I want to stress that the assumptions underpinning our work are not intended to lock the Government or anybody else into guarantees, moral, legal or implied. Neither are they intended to be potential excuses for failure. On the contrary, they are intended to create a framework whereby SEEDA can enter into a partnership with Government to deliver a globally competitive region and ever increasing wealth for the nation.

With all best wishes

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

ALLAN WILLETT
Chairman

CC: Alan Johnson
David Saunders
David Shakespeare – South East England Regional Assembly