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Permanent Secretary

Paul Dacre
30 Year Rule Review
[via email]
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Department for
**Innovation,
Universities &
Skills**

3 March 2008

Dear Paul,

Review of the Thirty Year Rule

Thank you for your letter of 28 December 2007.

I have consulted widely within my Department and with the relevant NDPBs and agencies.

I am in favour of a change to make records available to the public earlier than is currently the case. In my view it fits well with an increasing need for openness in Whitehall in order to meet a growing public expectation of access to information and of scrutiny of public bodies.

There may be resource implications for Departments who will need to review more files as the period for release comes down from thirty years. There may therefore be a good case for staging any radical changes.

Yours sincerely,

