



*Edw Bar  
PES*

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HH

From the Minister

The Rt Hon Norman Lamont MP  
Chief Secretary to the Treasury  
HM Treasury  
Parliament Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 3AG

*Minister at this stage*

*Rec 6  
28/9*

18 September 1989

*Dear Chief Secretary,*

We have recently had to bid for extra resources for Kew Gardens in this year's PES round. Additional funding is required for an extension of the Jodrell Laboratory and Development of the Victoria Gate made up as follows: 1990/91 Victoria Gate £0.6M, Jodrell £1.0M, 1991/92 Victoria Gate £1.04M, Jodrell £0.78M.

X/ Following her visit to Kew on 16 June, the Prime Minister queried the sufficiency of the £10.6M grant in aid. She also spoke to Lady Trumpington at Chequers about the excellent research work being carried out there. Although this work has been deliberately protected from the heavy cuts in our research budget in recent years, and the grant has increased in line with the Treasury's forecasts of increases in costs, there is now a case for a further increase because costs have increased faster than expected.

Kew is recognised worldwide as the pre-eminent centre of excellence for the scientific study of plants and the Jodrell Laboratory is a most vital component in this work. It is essential for the Jodrell to maintain its pre-eminence. In order to do so, the Laboratory needs to improve, modernise and rationalise its facilities and to develop and integrate new research initiatives. Most importantly it needs to be able to develop work on molecular systematics, biochemical screening and conservation technology in order to take advantage of outside funding, particularly from the pharmaceutical and chemical industries (where there is considerable interest in the screening of plants for compounds of use in medicine and agriculture).

/Development of the ...

Castle OLR

Is there any truth in X? The  
file reveals nothing. Yes - F  
believe so. Lady Thompson  
wrote it about the funding  
(saying it was graph) and  
the PM did not disagree. CTS

Development of the Victoria Gate is needed to provide greatly improved and safer entrance facilities in order to increase visitor numbers and consequently income. The proposal stems from a survey carried out for Royal Botanical Gardens in 1987. The Trustees see the development as enabling them more effectively to carry out their responsibilities under the National Heritage Act 1983 to afford entry to the Gardens by members of the public, both for education and recreational purposes, while at the same time seeking to increase earnings from visitors.

These two projects form an important part of RBG's strategy for revenue generation being developed in the first update of its Corporate Plan which is currently being considered by our officials. Completion of the work will be a major step in Kew's efforts to increase its income and I hope therefore, that you are able to give the bids your support.

\* I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,

S. J. Lambert

pp JOHN GUMMER

Approved by the Minister  
and signed in his absence