

Ministry of Fuel and Power,  
7, Millbank,

London, S.W. 1.

Dear Lady Noel-Buxton, <sup>April</sup> 1st March, 1947.

Thank you for your letter of the 13th March enclosing one from Mr. D.F. Thompson about the full-time opening of cinemas and theatres while fuel supplies for food production are still short.

I have had enquiries made and find that only about 25% of Messrs. Reckitt & Colman's output is classified by the Ministry of Food as essential. The firm produce a relatively small quantity of breakfast cereal and some tinned flour, but their main production lines are starch and mustard, which under prevailing conditions are not ranked as high priority.

Unfortunately, and I am sure you will appreciate this point, it is very difficult to ensure that coal supplies granted to a firm for the maintenance of a particular part of their output, are confined to the desired use, and it seems that Reckitt & Colman have been trying to maintain full production in all departments on a reduced allocation.

The fuel used for the heating of cinemas and theatres is generally speaking, of a type quite unsuitable for works such as the Carrow Works of Reckitt & Colman.

Yours sincerely

Lady Lucy Noel-Buxton, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
S.W. 1.

Angus Gaitskell

Ministry of Fuel and Power

N. Millbank

London, E.W.1.



1947

*Dear Sir,*

I have had opportunity to read your letter of the 15th inst. enclosing one from Mr. J. F. ... about the full-time opening of ... and ... while full supplies for full production are still short.

I have had opportunity to read your letter of the 15th inst. enclosing one from Mr. J. F. ... about the full-time opening of ... and ... while full supplies for full production are still short. The main product is relatively ... and ...

... and I am sure you will ... point, it is ... to a firm for the ... output, are ... in all departments ...

The fuel used for the heating of chimneys and ... is generally a matter of a ... such as the ...

*Yours faithfully,*

*John ...*  
John ...  
Home of ...  
E.W.1.





Ministry of Fuel and Power,  
7, Millbank,  
London, S.W. 1.

17th April, 1947

Dear Lady Noel-Buxton,

Coal Supplies to East Anglia

I am afraid we are having a great deal of difficulty in finding a time which is acceptable to all the Members interested for our discussion on the above subject. I am glad, however, that you will be able to come along to-morrow afternoon so that we can have a talk about it. I am sorry to say, however, that I shall have to ask you to agree to the time being altered to 3.30 (in my room at this office) as I have been invited to a meeting of Ministers at 4.30, and I feel that we should allow at least 45 minutes for the discussion, particularly since there may be several members present.

Incidentally, Brigadier Medicott has now expressed a keen interest in this subject, and we are accordingly inviting him also to come along at 3.30 to-morrow to participate in the discussion.

Yours sincerely

Hugh Gaitskell

Lady Noel-Buxton, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
London, S.W. 1.



Ministry of Fuel and Power,  
7 Whitehall,  
London, S.W.1.

17th April, 1947

*Dear Lady Noel-Baker*

Good evening to you and the

I am afraid we are having a good deal of difficulty in  
finding a time which is acceptable to all the members interested  
for our discussion on the above subject. I am afraid, however,  
that you will be able to join along tomorrow afternoon so that  
we can have a preliminary talk. I am sorry to say, however, that  
I shall have to ask you to meet for the time being either to  
1.30 (in my room or this office) as I have been invited to a  
meeting of Ministers at 4.30 and I feel that we should allow  
at least 15 minutes for the discussion, particularly since there  
may be several members present.

Incidentally, I regret that the time has now expired a few  
minutes in this subject and we are accordingly inviting you  
also to come along at 1.30 tomorrow to participate in the  
discussion.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Frank Goulcher*

Lady Noel-Baker, 12,  
Place of Council,  
London, S.W.1.



Fuel

**Ministry of Fuel and Power,  
7, Millbank,  
London, S.W. 1.**

6<sup>th</sup> May, 1947.

Dear Lady Noel-Buxton,

I am sorry that you were unable to be present at our meeting on 22nd April, and I hope that you have now fully recovered from your recent illness. At the meeting I promised to reply in writing to the representations which have been made for higher fuel allowances for Norfolk and the coastal regions of Suffolk.

As I explained the line of division for fuel allocation purposes, runs roughly from the Wash to the mouth of the River Severn. You will, of course, appreciate that wherever a line of this kind is drawn, there is bound to be some dissatisfaction on the part of consumers immediately on the wrong side of it, but I am afraid that we cannot regard this a reason for altering it.

From the information submitted it appears that the case put forward by East Anglia is based very largely on winter temperatures and weather conditions and I must emphasize that the fuel allowances are intended to cover the requirements of the year as a whole, and not merely the most severe months of the Winter. It would not be possible to settle them simply on the basis of an exceptional period of about seven weeks such as occurred this Winter. As I explained there are three main factors which govern the climatic conditions, i.e., temperature, rainfall and sunshine, and we have taken all of these into consideration in connection with East Anglia's claim.

With regard to temperature the best comparison is the average mean temperature, and according to the Book of Normals published by the Meteorological Office and covering the 35 year period 1881

Lady Lucy Noel-Buxton, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
S.W. 1.

Ministry of Fuel and Power,  
5, Whitehall,  
London, S.W. 1.

to 1915, the annual average for the nine districts into which England, Wales, and Scotland are divided ranges from 45.6 to 49.5°F, and the Eastern District is third highest with 48.4°F.

The next factor in importance is rainfall, and in this respect the Eastern District is the most fortunate in the country. The annual averages range from 24.01 to 51.64 inches and the lowest figure, 24.01, is that for the Eastern District.

As regards sunshine, the Eastern district, with an average of 4.32 hours bright sunshine per day throughout the year comes second. The first is South and South East England with 4.49 hours and the last is North Scotland with 3.05 hours.

It has been suggested that East Anglia is at a disadvantage owing to the fact that it has no range of hills to shelter it from the east winds, but on the other hand since temperature falls one degree for every rise of roughly 300', East Anglia does not suffer from any local variation of temperature such as the hillier districts of the country experience.

Finally, since the meeting I have had further examination made into the question as to whether the averages for the Eastern District as a whole afforded a fair criterion of the climatic conditions in the coastal districts of Norfolk and Suffolk, which, it was suggested, were more unfavourable than those of the inland counties such as Hertfordshire. You will, I am sure, be interested to see the figures given below for individual towns which disprove this suggestion.



G.R.

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		<u>Mean</u> <u>Temperature</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Rainfall</u>
<u>Norfolk</u>	Norwich	48.7	26.48
	Cromer	48.5	20.60
	Yarmouth	48.4	24.52
<u>Suffolk</u>	Lowestoft	48.6	23.48
	Felixstowe	49.3	21.38
<u>Hertford</u>	Berkhampsted	48.5	29.81
	Rothampsted	48.2	26.73
<u>Bedford</u>	Woburn	48.1	24.22

The above information, as I have said, appears in the published Book of Normals and covers a long and not very recent period. We obtained, however, from the Meteorological Office in 1942 charts showing the distribution of mean temperatures for various months over the thirty-year period 1901 to 1930 and these support the earlier figures.

As I explained at the meeting I approached this question with an entirely open mind but after considering all the evidence I have come to the conclusion that East Anglia is properly placed in the Southern Zone for restriction purposes, and I am afraid we cannot accept the claim for the grant to that area of the Northern allowance. I would, however, point out that for those consumers who are dependent on coal for all cooking ~~and heating~~, the Ministry's instructions provide that Local Fuel Overseers may, on application, grant licences for supplementary supplies to bring the total allowance up to 54 cwt. for 12 months, the difference between the allowances in the Northern and Southern Regions being in such cases only 6 cwt.

Yours sincerely  
Hugh Saitskell

<u>Annual</u>	<u>Year</u>		
<u>Mar 1941</u>	<u>1940</u>		
26.48	48.7	Norwich	Norfolk
20.60	48.5	Cromer	
24.72	48.4	Yarmouth	
23.48	48.0	Lowestoft	Suffolk
21.38	48.3	Felixstowe	
29.91	48.5	Borkenhamsted	Hertford
28.73	48.5	Nottingham	
24.22	48.1	Woburn	Bedford

The above information, as I have said, appears in the published Book of Normals and covers a long and not very recent period. We obtained, however, from the Meteorological Office in 1948 charts showing the distribution of mean temperatures for various months over the time period 1880 to 1930 and these are set out in earlier figures.

As I explained at the meeting I approached this question with an entirely open mind but after considering all the evidence I have come to the conclusion that East Angles is properly placed in the Southern Zone for restriction purposes, and I am afraid we cannot accept the claim for the grant to that area of the Northern allowance. I would, however, point out that for those consumers who are dependent on coal for all cooking purposes the Ministry's instructions provide that local fuel overseers may, on application, grant licenses for supplementary supplies to bring the total allowance up to 54 cwt. for 12 months, the difference between the allowances in the Northern and Southern regions being in such cases only 6 cwt.

*Yours sincerely  
Hugh Gantwell*