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Not the right image, Charles

By Richard Palmer
Royal Correspondent

IT LOOKS as though Prince
Charles's efforts to tell us about
using the earth's resources wisely
have just been a waste of energy.
For one of the worst offenders
for leaking heat is his mother's
main home, Buckingham Palace.
The sovereign's official London
residence topped a list of the
environmentally-damaging build-
ings on the day Prince Charles
arrived in Brazil to urge the world
to do more to combat global
warming.
Thermal imaging shows heat
pouring through the windows,
roof and even wall cracks of the
775-room palace, built in 1703.
The historic landmark, which
scored nought out of 10 in an
efficiency report, was described
as "the biggest central heating
radiator in the capital" as striking
infra-red pictures captured the
huge amount of energy escaping
into the night sky.
Energy expert Ivan Lucas of
green energy company Navitrori,
who helped carry out the survey,
was astonished by the scale of the
heat leaks.
He said: "Clearly the windows
are single-glazed and I suspect
that it would not be acceptable to
replace with double-glazing.
"However, improvements in
draught-proofing on the windows,
and perhaps adding secondary
glazing would significantly reduce
heat losses and bills."

Historic

The Queen, who spent £2.2 mil-
lion on her energy bills last year,
has pleaded for more taxpayers'
cash to deal with a £32million
backlog of repairs to the palace.
But aides insist it is difficult to
make the building more energy
efficient because of its historic
nature and the lack of cash.
A courtier said: "This is some-
thing we are aware of but we are
restricted by our budget."
Energy waste has also embar-
rassed Prince Charles, who is
touring South America warning
that nations have only 100 months
to save the planet from irreversi-
ble climate change.
St James's Palace, to which his
London home Clarence House is
attached, came 12th in the list of
leading polluters with a score of
five out of 10.

Five Government buildings,
including the Department of
Energy and Climate Change - the
people who are supposed to set
us an example - also appear on
the 12-strong list.
The others are the Treasury,
Home Office, Ministry of Defence
and the headquarters of MI6,
built in 1994.
They are joined by Portcullis
House, opened in 2001 to house
offices for MPs.

Energy
waste at

public
buildings
like the
Palace,
left, and §
Houses of
Parliament,
below, are
setbacks for
Charles's

green
campaign

DIRTY DOZEN

From analysis of the measurement
data taken from more than 170

locations surveyed across the

capital, the list of the most

energy-inefficient buildings is:

• Buckingham Palace

• DECC (Defra)

• Ministry of Defence

• Horse Guards Barracks

• Shell Building

• Home Office

• Houses of Parliament

Treasury

Portcullis House

MI6 HQ

Albert Hall

St James's Palace

Croc kills canoe girl

A CROCODILE bit the head off a
10-year-old girl after tipping over her
canoe.

The 10-year-old and a classmate
had been on their way to their float-
ing school on Mihaba lake in the Phil-
ippines last Saturday when the 23ft
creature bumped their boat, causing
it to turn over, according to a local po-
lice officer.

Rescuers found the girl's headless
body floating in the lake, on the south-
ern Philippines island of Mindanao,
on Tuesday.
Roel Hipulan, head of the private
group that runs the school the two
girls attended in the remote town of
Bunawan, said the victim's classmate

had been rescued by a man escorting
the pair in another boat.
Mr Hipulan, who has seen the crea-
ture, said: "It's a monster."
He added that salt water crocodiles,
some longer than a bus, are known to
inhabit the lake, although attacks on
humans are rare.
But he added that Mihaba's waters
have been swollen for the past several
months, causing fish to scatter to
other parts. With little to feed on, the
crocodiles have become aggressive.
The attack has prompted the
temporary closure of the school and
the evacuation of about 100 people
who live in houses perched on stilts
on the lake.

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