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PRIME MINISTER

SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

To glance
MS
15/XI

(didn't know
Scotland had

Ans

Tim Lankester Esq
Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Andi such
referred to

15 November 1979

68¹/₂ as of course 612

Dear Tim,

My Secretary of State is meeting the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities at 2 pm this Friday, 16 November, to announce our rate support grant settlement. He will be announcing at the same time the detailed implications for Scottish programmes of the public expenditure decisions that have been taken for 1980-81.

He intends to inform the House of the substance of his announcements by means of arranged Questions and Answers on Monday (he cannot, unlike DOE, lay the Answers on Friday because the meeting with COSLA does not take place until Friday afternoon).

I attach copies of the proposed Questions and Answers. My only caveat is that, at the time of writing, I have still not seen DOE's proposed Question and Answer on the same subject: we may conceivably, for consistency, want to amend our texts in the light of these.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Edmonds at DOE.

Yours sincerely,

Godfrey Robson

GODFREY ROBSON
Private Secretary

HOUSE OF COMMONS

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will provide details of public expenditure within his responsibility equivalent to the figures in Table 2 of the White Paper "The Government's Expenditure Plans 1980-81" (Cmd 7746).

MR GEORGE YOUNGER:

The information requested is given in the following table. The figures for the years preceding 1980-81 reflect the latest information on outturn.

EXPENDITURE IN SCOTLAND WITHIN THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S RESPONSIBILITY

	<u>£million at 1979 survey figures</u>						
	<u>1974-75</u> <u>Outturn</u>	<u>1975-76</u> <u>Outturn</u>	<u>1976-77</u> <u>Outturn</u>	<u>1977-78</u> <u>Outturn</u>	<u>1978-79</u> <u>Provisional</u> <u>Outturn</u>	<u>1979-80</u> <u>Expected</u> <u>Outturn</u>	<u>1980-81</u> <u>Plans</u>
Agriculture Fisheries Food and Forestry	181	118	134	105	95	122	112
Trade Industry Energy and Employment	63	37	111	87	96	112	113
Roads and Transport	304	320	299	307	325	313	308
Housing	752	742	710	671	652	697	627
Other Environmental Services	399	459	387	354	389	396	384
Law Order and Protective Services	198	212	210	199	210	217	221
Education and Libraries Science and Arts	933	979	964	936	941	945	904
Health and Personal Social Services	946	976	990	1000	1038	1041	1069
Other Public Services	32	42	42	42	41	44	46
Common Services	1	1	1	1	-	1	1
TOTAL	3809	3886	3848	3702	3787	3888	3785

BACKGROUND NOTE

Since the Scottish figures underlying the totals in Cmnd 7746 were provided, some small further adjustments have been made to outturn etc. figures, particularly for 1978-79 and 1979-80. To that extent the figures in the Table are not exactly compatible with those underlying Table 2 in Cmnd 7746 but the second sentence of the reply should cover this point without undue emphasis. (The changes in ^{general} marginally improve the position of 1980-81 relative to previous years). There have been no changes, however, in the figures for the key year, 1980-81.