

CONFIDENTIAL



CABINET OFFICE

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From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO

Ref: A0571

5th November 1979

- 1. Cigarettes
- 2. Carlines

The Chancellor  
 won't be ready  
 to discuss this  
 until next  
 week.  
 Could you  
 (Carline) fix  
 a time with  
 Chancellor's Min.

Public Expenditure White Paper

The Prime Minister believes that it is neither necessary nor desirable that, in the White Paper on Public Expenditure to 1983-84, the figures for the later years should be given with the degree of detail and precision which is no doubt appropriate for those for 1980-81. She would like to discuss with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Chief Secretary, and with Treasury officials as appropriate, how the figures for later years might be aggregated and rounded and the extent to which this process should be taken.

R  
 G/H

She understands that some thought has been given to this possibility in the Treasury, and she would be grateful if the Chief Secretary would prepare a note setting out proposals to achieve these results. If that note could be circulated within the next two days the Prime Minister would hope to have a meeting later this week. I understand that this would enable decisions to be taken in time to be taken into account in the final preparations of the White Paper.

I am copying this letter to Tim Lankester and Tony Battishill.

M. J. VILE  
 (M. J. Vile)

A. C. Pirie, Esq

