

CONFIDENTIAL

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

10 December 1984

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WHITE PAPER: 1985

The Prime Minister has seen and noted the Chief Secretary's minute to which was attached a draft of the White Paper.

On manpower, she hopes that the Secretary of State for Defence will be able to offer a figure which is closer to the substantial savings which, at the meeting with the Prime Minister on 1 November, he indicated could be achieved.

On capital spending, the Prime Minister has commented that it is not possible to decide on the merits of publishing an extended Table 1.13 without seeing what is involved. She hoped, therefore, that the Secretary of State for Defence will make available the data necessary to extend the Table for three years. The enlarged Table should then be circulated to colleagues so that a judgment can be made on whether to publish figures for one or three years ahead.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of Cabinet and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

(Andrew Turnbull)

Richard Broadbent, Esq.,  
H.M. Treasury.

A handwritten signature in the bottom right corner of the page.