



Prime Minister 2 ^{cc/SG}
To note that the
Public Expenditure White
Paper is to be published on
Wednesday 15 January.

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

David Norgrove Esq
Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street
London
SW1

3 January 1986

Dear David,

PUBLICATION OF 1986 PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WHITE PAPER

The text of the 1986 Public Expenditure White Paper was cleared in correspondence before Christmas. We now need to finalise arrangements for publication.

The White Paper is on schedule for publication in the second half of the week beginning 13 January as planned, a week earlier than in 1985. The Treasury is due to answer Questions on Thursday of that week. The Chief Secretary feels it would be desirable to avoid publication on that day and proposes therefore that the White Paper should be published at 3.30 pm on Wednesday 15 January. Informal consultations have identified no other major publication or announcement planned for that day.

It is established practice that there is no Oral Statement upon publication of the White Paper. Instead, there is usually a debate in the House a few weeks after publication. It would, however, seem appropriate - as before - to announce the date and time of publication in a Written Answer beforehand, and to place copies in the Vote Office on publication day. The Chief Secretary proposes therefore that the publication details should be announced in a Written Answer on Tuesday 14 January in the terms attached.

As in the past, the Chief Secretary will be arranging on-the-record briefing for the press. As the White Paper is a long and complex document, we envisage issuing embargoed Confidential Final Revises on the day before publication.

The Chief Secretary is keen to ensure that the public expenditure plans are presented actively and positively. A considerable number of departments issued their own press notices at the time the summary figures

were announced in the 1985 Autumn Statement, and the Chief Secretary hopes that departments generally will hold press conferences or issue press notices commenting on and explaining their figures in the White Paper.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of Cabinet, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong, and to Bernard Ingham.

Yours sincerely,
Paul

PAUL PEGLER
Assistant Private Secretary