



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY**  
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*From the Secretary of State for Social Services*

The Rt Hon John MacGregor OBE MP  
 Chief Secretary to the Treasury  
 HM Treasury  
 Parliament Street  
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6 June 1986

*NBM*

*Dear Chief Secretary,*

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE SURVEY 1986: OPCS

This letter sets out the addition that is necessary to the provision for the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

The OPCS baseline at present includes provision for the 1991 Census in the three Survey years as follows:

£ millions		
<u>1987/88</u>	<u>1988/89</u>	<u>1989/90</u>
1.90	3.04	3.12

This figure is likely to need to be increased by the following additional amounts:

£ millions		
<u>1987/88</u>	<u>1988/89</u>	<u>1989/90</u>
1.25	1.47	1.80

The precise amount depends on whether you approve the business case which has been put to your officials for a method of planning numeration districts based on postcodes.

The office is absorbing additional work within its baseline, but cannot meet these Census costs without additional cash provision.

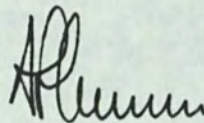
OPCS is also undertaking additional work on the computerisation of the National Health Service central register as part of the DHSS strategy for computerising family practitioner services administration.

Cash provision is already in my DHSS baseline so while no net increase in increase in provision is required, authority is needed to increase OPCS gross running costs by:

£ millions		
<u>1987/88</u>	<u>1988/89</u>	<u>1989/90</u>
0.53	0.90	1.75

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and the Lord President.

*Yours sincerely*



*for*

NORMAN FOWLER

(Approved by the Secretary of State and signed in his absence)

