

CONFIDENTIAL



Prime Minister

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Agree 15 March?

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

MUS 13/1

Michael Scholar Esq
No 10
Downing Street
LONDON SW1

12 January 1983

Dear Michael,

Yes MS

1983 BUDGET DAY

We have as you know been working towards a Budget on 15 March, and the Prime Minister earlier indicated that she was content with this (your letter of 1 October). Our consultations show no major difficulties in terms of overseas visits, awkward announcements of economic statistics and so on. If the Prime Minister remains content, the Chancellor is inclined to think that the date of 15 March should be announced - as in the last two years - in the first Business Statement after the Christmas Recess, which is likely to be Thursday, 20 January this year. I understand that the normal form is for the announcement to be made in reply to a Question by the Leader of the Opposition, who is prompted in advance by the Chief Whip.

I am sending copies of this letter to David Heyhoe and to Murdo Maclean. If the Lord President also agrees to an announcement being made on 20 January, I should be grateful if the Chief Whip's Office could make the necessary arrangements.

Yours ever,

J O Kerr

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 January 1983

1983 BUDGET DAY

Thank you for your letter of 12 January.

The Prime Minister does indeed remain content with 15 March for Budget Day. She is also content that this should be announced in the first Business Statement after the Christmas Recess.

I am sending copies of this letter to David Heyhoe (Lord President's Office) and Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office).

M. C. SCHOLAR

John Kerr, Esq.,
HM Treasury

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