

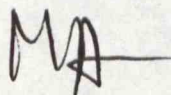
PRIME MINISTER

✓ c.c. Mr Addison

Peter Fry (Wellingborough) wants to come and see you, together with some Northants Members, to talk about the Rate Support Grant Settlement before the relevant decisions are put to the House. I attach the letter in which he requests such a meeting (you will see from the letter that Peter Fry wanted to bring in the Conservative Leader of Northants County Council, Bill Morton, but I have already told Peter that you will only see Parliamentary colleagues).

There is a difficulty about your agreeing to see Peter Fry and one or two other Northants colleagues, and that is that many other groups of colleagues from the other Counties may feel that they likewise should have an opportunity of putting their difficulties direct to you. An additional factor in deciding whether or not to see Peter Fry is the fact that he voted against the Government on Tuesday on the Supplementary Benefit Payments Amendments.

You may care to lay down the general rule, therefore, that colleagues should sort out their RSG problems with Nick Ridley, and not come to you. At the same time, it is fairly draconian for you to refuse to see Conservative colleagues who ask specifically for a chance to talk to you, and you may feel that, on balance, you should agree to see Peter Fry and the Northants group of Conservative colleagues. I myself think this is the right thing to do, even if other bids to see you follow.



MICHAEL ALISON  
19.12.86