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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT



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13/12

11 December 1989

Dear John

REPORT OF THE REVIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT VALUATION SERVICES

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I have seen your letter of 23 November to Chris Patten and read with interest the accompanying report of the review of Government Valuation Services.

The main thrust of the report seems to me to offer good prospects for greater efficiency. On a number of issues, however, there is clearly a substantial amount of further work to be done, and I share some of Malcolm Rifkind's concern about the timetable. In particular the separate examination of business rating practice will raise some important policy issues. I hope you will be able to take another look at the proposed implementation programme in the light of this.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, all other members of the Cabinet and Sir Robin Butler.

GEOFFREY HOWE

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John

The Rt Hon John Major MP

