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From The Secretary of State for Wales

The Rt Hon Peter Walker MBE MP

CONFIDENTIAL

CT/6060/90

NBPM

6 March 1990

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LA REVENUE: ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING THE 1990 SURVEY

You copied to me your letter of 14 February to Chris Patten. I have also seen his reply of 19 February along with those of John MacGregor, Malcolm Rifkind and David Waddington.

I remain of the view that, on balance, a July settlement is preferable; partly for the assistance it gives local authorities but largely because it makes manageable our timetable for handling the rest of the survey and for consulting on the Settlement. Those advantages would be largely lost if we took only a preliminary view in July and then came back to have a second bite in September before making an announcement.

As last year, however, I remain most concerned about the potential difficulties of being tied to a Settlement from July right through until December. I therefore share the importance Chris Patten attaches to getting the Settlement right in July, so that we can respond positively to factors which emerge during the autumn.

/ I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and members of E (LG).

The Rt Hon Norman Lamont MP
Chief Secretary
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