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QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

2 October 1990

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LOCAL AUTHORITY CURRENT:1991-92 TOTAL STANDARD SPENDING
DISTRIBUTION AND STANDARD SPENDING ASSESSMENTS

I have seen a copy of Norman Lamont's letter to you of 21 September discussing a possible service split for TSS. I am content with Option II as proposed by Norman, on the understanding that the figure for police expenditure may need some adjustment in the light of the eventual PES settlement on police grant.

Attached

You also sent me a copy of your minute of 25 September to the Prime Minister about the composition of SSA's for 1991-92. I am willing to go along with the proposal to include supernumerary posts required for security purposes within the establishments indicator in the police SSA. Such posts can have a disproportionate impact upon certain police forces, and it seems reasonable to reflect this in the arrangements for distributing RSG. The posts in question have to be approved by my Department, and we shall be careful to hold the line against any further relaxation of the definition, for example to include supernumerary posts authorised for other purposes.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of E(LG) and to Sir Robin Butler.

John Patten

The Rt Hon Chris Patten MP
Secretary of State for
the Environment
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