



bcc: O. Lewin

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 February, 1985

Local Authority Propaganda

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's minute of 31 January. She agrees that the question of rate financed propaganda should be referred to the Widdicombe Inquiry. She has noted that it is proposed to ask for an interim reply by July and has asked whether it would be possible to shorten this timetable. Even before legislation is enacted, the findings of the Inquiry could help buttress the Government's case in the arguments about rate capping and abolition, and the sooner the findings are available the better.

In the specific context of abolition, the Prime Minister has asked that consideration be given to adding a clause to the Abolition Bill which would strengthen controls on all frivolous expenditure, including advertising.

I am copying this letter to Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office), Elizabeth Hodgkinson (Department of Education and Science), Charles Marshall (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Alex Galloway (Paymaster General's Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

ANDREW TURNBULL

John Ballard, Esq.,
Department of the Environment