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My ref:
Your ref:

Alison Smith
Private Secretary to
The Rt Hon John Wakeham MP
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

2 November 1988

1. ALISA
2 pmp

Dear Alison

RATE SUPPORT GRANT SETTLEMENT 1989/90

My Secretary of State intends to announce his proposals for the 1989/90 Rate Support Grant settlement in a consultation paper to be sent to the local authorities and the associations, probably in the week beginning 7 November. Subject to the Lord President's views, he intends to make this announcement in answer to a written Parliamentary Question.

It is possible there may be demands for an oral statement. My Secretary of State proposes to make an oral statement setting out the Government's decisions before the House rises for the Christmas Recess. In addition there will be a full debate on the Report and outstanding supplementary reports in January. I would be grateful for confirmation that the Lord Privy Seal is content with this procedure, which is the same as that followed last year, and agrees that demands for an oral statement when the consultation paper is issued should be resisted.

As last year, we will be providing briefing material to the Whips about the settlement, and I am consulting Murdo MacLean separately about this.

I am copying this letter to Murdo MacLean and Rhodri Walters in the Chief Whips' offices; to the Private Secretaries of E(LF) members; and to Trevor Woolley in Sir Robin Butler's office.

John Bright

R BRIGHT
Private Secretary