



Secretary of State for Industry

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
ASHDOWN HOUSE
123 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1E 6RB

TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-212 3301
SWITCHBOARD 01-212 7676

2 March 1983

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw CH MC MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AT

Dear Willie,

Thank you for your letter of 21 February about the programme of closure for 405-line TV transmitters.

2 I am sure you are right in concluding that these transmitters should be closed by the end of 1984, rather than by the end of 1986. The industrial and economic arguments in favour of an accelerated programme of closure more than outweigh the problem of depriving a limited number of viewers of a TV service. On the question of interference, I am concerned at the costs that cable operators will incur and at the possibility that they may decide not to spend these sums on protecting their systems. However, most cable operators will have to carry out this work, whether the 405 line service is shut down in 1984 or 1986. Moreover, as the note attached to your letter points out, it was only because your Department was able in the past to plan carefully the Bands I and III distribution frequencies that the cable operators have escaped having to protect their systems previously. I therefore agree with your conclusion that this difficulty should not be a reason for delaying the programme of closure or for compensating cable operators.

3 I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and our other colleagues on E Committee, George Younger and Nick Edwards, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

You are
Patel

Broadcasting
Radio Frequency
AP 82

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