



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Andrew Turnbull Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London
SW1

7 January 1985

Dear Andrew

PUBLICATION OF 1985 PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WHITE PAPER

The text of the 1985 White Paper has already been cleared with other Departments (my letter to you of 21 December refers). We now need to settle arrangements for publication.

The White Paper is on schedule for publication in the week beginning 21 January as planned. Thursday 24 January is the next date for Treasury First Order Questions, which rules that day out. The Chief Secretary therefore proposes it should be published on Tuesday, 22 January. Our consultations suggest this should not clash with any other major publication or announcement.

The Prime Minister will of course be answering questions in the House on that day. The Chief Secretary suggests that publication should be at 3.30pm.

Recent practice has been for there to be no oral statement on publication of the White Paper, and there seems no reason for any change this year. The practice has been for a debate in the House on the White Paper a few weeks after publication. It would, however, seem appropriate - as last year - to announce the date and time of publication in a Written Answer a few days before hand, and then place copies in the Vote Office on publication day.

As in the past, the Chief Secretary will be arranging on-the-record briefing for the press. As the White Paper is a long and complex document, we envisage issuing embargoed Confidential Final Revises on the day before publication.

I am sending copies of this letter to Janet Lewis-Jones, (Lord President's Office), David Heyhoe (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and to Bernard Ingham.

Yours ever

Richard

R J BROADBENT

Private Secretary

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