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The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd CBE MP
The Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
SW1H 9AT

4 December 1986

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Johnson'.

NBA7

GREEN PAPER ON RADIO POLICY

I have seen your minute of 27 November to the Prime Minister, and the attached paper which was to have been discussed at MISC 128 on 2 December.

While there must obviously be regulatory safeguards to prevent abuses of radio broadcasting, it is important that we leave community radio operators with sufficient freedom to find their niche in the market. Your proposals seem to me to strike a reasonable balance.

I have also seen the amendments suggested by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in his private secretary's letter to yours of 2 December. The first seems to be in keeping with the spirit of paragraph 3, and tightens the existing provisions against "control or undue influence by a public authority, a political party" or a mainly political body. The extra enforcement power seems to me a useful one.

I am copying this letter to members of MISC 128, to the Foreign Secretary, to the Secretary of State for the Environment, and also to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Lawson'.

NIGEL LAWSON

BROADCASTING
LEGISLATION
PT 2

