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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

6 January 1987

**PUBLICATION OF 1987 PUBLIC  
EXPENDITURE WHITE PAPER**

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 5 January and is content for the Public Expenditure White Paper to be published on Wednesday 14 January.

The Prime Minister endorses most strongly the Chief Secretary's wish for the Public Expenditure plans to be presented actively and positively.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of Cabinet, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong and to Mr. Bernard Ingham.

**DAVID NORGROVE**

Ms. Jill Rutter,  
Chief Secretary's Office

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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Prime Minister

Agree to publication on § 14 January,  
 subject to colleagues, and to endorse  
 warmly the suggestion that the plans  
should be presented - January 1987  
actively and positively?

D Norgrove Esq  
 Private Secretary  
 10 Downing Street  
 London  
 SW1

Dear David,

DRJ  
 5/81

#### PUBLICATION OF 1987 PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WHITE PAPER

The text of the 1987 Public Expenditure White Paper was cleared in correspondence before Christmas. We now need to settle arrangements for publication.

The White Paper is on schedule for publication in the second half of the week beginning 12 January. The Chief Secretary proposes it should be published at 12 noon on Wednesday, 14 January. There could be advantage in having the document available before the Opposition debate scheduled for that afternoon. Informal consultations have not identified any other major publication or announcement with which that would clash.

Established practice is for there to be no Oral Statement on publication of the White Paper. Instead, there is usually a debate in the House on the White Paper a few weeks after publication. Past practice is also to inform Parliament of the date and time of publication in a Written Answer beforehand, and then place copies in the Vote Office on publication day. The Chief Secretary proposes the publication details should be announced in a Written Answer on Tuesday, 13 January.

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

The Chief Secretary wishes the public expenditure plans to be presented actively and positively. Although some departments issued their own press notices at the time the summary figures were announced

in the 1986 Autumn Statement, the Chief Secretary hopes that departments generally will hold press conferences or issue press notices commenting on and explaining their figures in the White Paper.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of Cabinet, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong, and to Mr Bernard Ingham.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Jill Rutter*

*PP* **JILL RUTTER**  
Private Secretary