

CCBG



nbpm

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon Tom King MP  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland  
Northern Ireland Office  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 3AZ

14<sup>TH</sup> April 1987

Dear Tom,

**GUIDELINES FOR THE 1987 SURVEY**

Thank you for your letter of 31 March.

As you say, our officials have discussed how the Guidelines for the 1987 Survey should be applied to the Northern Ireland block arrangements. I too am pleased that it has been agreed that the main features of the Guidelines will be complied with although there will be some minor differences of detail and timing which reflect your particular circumstances.

On your second point, you will appreciate that the only commitment I can give now as far as Northern Ireland is concerned, is that the block budget ground-rules will form the basis of the handling of this year's Survey. I hope that in large measure it will be possible to follow the normal procedures. But the ground-rules do allow for Ministerial override in particular circumstances and I am not prepared to foreclose that option at such an early stage.

I am copying this letter to other members of the Cabinet, Richard Luce and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

JOHN MacGREGOR

Rec'd 702

Public Telephone

PT 37

