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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG  
01-270 3000

23 October 1987

Robert Culshaw Esq  
PS/Secretary of State  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Downing Street  
LONDON SW1A 2AL

Dear Robert,

cc BT  
✓  
and per.

As the Prime Minister indicated at yesterday's Cabinet, Cabinet will discuss the outcome of the Public Expenditure Survey at its next meeting on 29 October. Assuming all the necessary decisions have been taken, the Autumn Statement will then be made on Tuesday 3 November. The Chancellor hopes that Departments will be ready as usual to issue Press Notices on the same day giving the main features of their programmes, and wherever possible, backing that up with appropriate material on output, rather than emphasising the money spent.

The Chancellor attaches particular importance to ensuring that the texts of Press Notices are agreed with the Treasury in advance to ensure both that the figuring is consistent and that the presentation is in line with the way the Autumn Statement as a whole is put over.

To ensure that the release of Departmental Press Notices is properly co-ordinated with the announcements from the Treasury, I would be grateful if each Department could:

- (i) notify the relevant Treasury Division by close on Monday 26 October whether it intends to issue a Press Notice on the day of the Autumn Statement and whether their Minister intends to hold a Press Conference;
- (ii) on Monday 26 October provide Mrs Burnhams here (270 5179, room 44/1), who will be co-ordinating the exercise, with the name and telephone number of someone in each Department who can be contacted about the arrangements for sending copies to the Treasury;
- (iii) show the Treasury Division concerned a draft by close on Wednesday 28 October and clear with them any subsequent modification;



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- (iv) deliver 100 copies of the agreed Press Notice to Mr N Fray in this office (room 14/2) by 12 noon on Monday 2 November.
- (v) arrange for copies of the Press Notice to be available to Members in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office when the Chancellor sits down on Tuesday, 3 November.

Although these plans are being made to allow for the Statement to be made on 3 November, this cannot of course be taken for granted. It will depend on the conclusions of Cabinet. For the time being, therefore, no public statement of the likely date of the Statement should be made. I should be grateful if you could ensure that knowledge of the arrangements is confined to those who need to know. If Departments are asked about the date of the Statement, they should say that the public expenditure round has not yet been concluded and that the Autumn Statement will be made as soon as practicable after final agreement has been reached.

I am copying this letter to David Norgrove (No.10), to Private Secretaries of Ministers in charge of Departments, to the Private Secretaries to the Chairmen of the Revenue Departments and to Sir Robert Armstrong (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely

Cathy Ryding

CATHY RYDING

