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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

8 January 1988

NBPM

HCCG  
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Dear Ken,

#### PUBLICISING GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 30 December to Malcolm Rifkind about your proposals to publicise sizeable offers of financial assistance to industry and commerce.

I am sure you are right that the Government does not get the credit it should for these grants, and that this problem might be rectified by issuing press releases in certain cases. As far as informing the local MPs is concerned, I believe that we would find it most helpful to let them know in advance. Members are likely to have strong incentives to get local publicity and, whatever their party, are bound to give most of the credit for providing the grant to the Government, though, of course, also claiming some for themselves.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and to Nigel Lawson, Douglas Hurd, Norman Fowler, Tom King, Nicholas Ridley, John MacGregor, Malcolm Rifkind, Paul Channon, John Moore, Cecil Parkinson and to Sir Robin Butler.

*John Wakeham*  
*[Signature]*

JOHN WAKEHAM

The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
Department of Trade and Industry





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