



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister!

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You didn't criticise this.

Are you happy with the Home

Secretary's proposals?

ASJ  
11/5

PRIME MINISTER

The Home Secretary has asked for your views on the attached letter about the concessionary television licence scheme. The existing scheme provides colour TV licences for 5p per year for pensioners, disabled and mentally disordered persons in residential care or living in specially provided accommodation run by a local authority or housing association. It has been recognised as anomalous for a long time, but the issue has been brought to a head by a court decision that local authorities could bring within the scope of the scheme all old age pensioners living in council houses in their areas. This would result in up to £1.7 million pensioners households becoming eligible at a cost, in lost revenue, of some £100 million per year.

The Home Secretary is proposing to restrict the scheme by defining more closely the accommodation that may qualify and restricting it to public sector housing. He proposes to protect the position of existing beneficiaries and to increase the concessionary sum from 5p to £5, while introducing a pay as you go scheme.

Are you content with his proposals?

PSB

① There can be no question of increasing the licence fee.

② This reduction should accelerate 'Pay as you view'

P.A. BEARPARK

10 May 1988

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From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

*ce BG*



HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

10 May 1988

*MB  
10/5*

*Dear Alison*

CONCESSIONARY TELEVISION LICENCE SCHEME

*WITH PAB?*

In view of the complicated and sensitive issues raised in the Home Secretary's letter to the Lord President of 9 May you asked whether the deadline for comments could be extended to the end of this week. I can confirm that we are content.

I am sending copies of this to Andy Bearpark in the Prime Minister's office and Private Secretaries of the recipients of the Home Secretary's letter of 9 May.

*Yours  
Catherine*

MISS C J BANNISTER

Mrs Alison Smith



Q. V. 101  
M. S. 8