



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

13 June 1988

The Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham
Secretary of State for Trade
and Industry
Department of Trade and Industry
1-19 Victoria Street
LONDON
SW1H 0ET

*NBM at Am
stage.*

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John Young

ADDITIONAL DBS CHANNELS

at HOP
I have seen your letter of 7 June to Douglas Hurd, proposing that we do not take any action on seeking to secure an additional block of DBS channels for UK until at least the autumn, and only then if we are prepared to contemplate additional channels being operational by the end of 1993.

I accept the force of the argument you advance for taking no action now. Indeed, as you imply, it may be premature even to contemplate an application to secure an additional block in the autumn if the period for bringing allocations into use remains at 5 years.

I do wonder, however, whether we need to consider further in MISC 128 the arguments for seeking early replanning of the DBS channel allocations. You say in your letter that these arguments have much to commend them, and that it is only our short term objectives of seeking additional DBS channels and wishing to smooth BSB's path that argue against supporting them now. But I am unclear - particularly in the light of developments in the last week - about the balance of advantage between supporting early moves towards replanning the DBS allocations and seeking additional allocations within the existing plan.

It would be helpful if we could consider these questions further in MISC 128, in the light of a fuller assessment of the arguments for and against a replanning of the DBS broadcast channel plans.

CONFIDENTIAL



I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, members of MISC 128 and to Sir Robin Butler.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nigel Lawson", written in a cursive style.

NIGEL LAWSON

BROADCASTING: Direct Broadcasting

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