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10 DOWNING STREET LONDON SWIA 2AA

From the Private Secretary

10 August 1988

Your letter of 2 August to Dominic Morris about the Broadcasting White Paper refers. The Prime Minister has confirmed that she is content with the proposals therein for consultation with other Departments.

I am copying this letter to Anthony Langdon (Cabinet Office).

P. A. BEARPARK

Philip Mawer, Esq., Home Office.

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Home Office Queen anne's gate London swih 9at

Content for the H/Ser 2 August 1988 to comelt with dept on the Broadusting Which Paper ?

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BROADCASTING WHITE PAPER: CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED DEPARTMENTS

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The Home Secretary has instructed officials here to proceed with the preparation of the draft of the Broadcasting White Paper on the lines agreed at the meeting of MISC 128 on 28 July. This letter concerns one small but important procedural point,

The White Paper will deal with some matters on which officials would now find it convenient to consult their colleagues in other Departments not represented on MISC 128. DES have an interest in the future arrangements for Channel 4, given the present use of that channel to transmit Open College and Schools programmes. The Scottish and Northern Ireland Offices will have an interest in the balance between regional and national services — the Secretary of State for Wales is, of course, already a member of MISC 128 — and there may be other Departments which it would be useful to consult during the preparation of the draft White Paper.

Any consultations would be on the clear basis that the Prime Minister and the other Ministers directly concerned had taken certain key decisions and all that was now at issue was the detailed working out of the consequences of those decisions.

The Home Secretary would be glad of the Prime Minister's confirmation that we can consult DES and other interested Departments on this basis.

I am copying this letter to Anthony Langdon (Cabinet Office).

P J C MAWER