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

4 November 1988

The Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd CBE MP Secretary of State for Home Affairs 50 Queen Anne's Gate LONDON SW1H 9AT

COMMUNITY RADIO

Thank you for your letter of 31 October.

I welcome your proposal to limit to six the number of community radio contracts to be awarded to existing contractors. And I am content for you to make clear to the IBA that the actual term of each contract should reflect the size and investment of each new station, subject to a maximum of six years. In those cases where contracts are awarded to pirate radio stations that are already broadcasting and no further substantial investment is required, this should mean the contracts are no longer than two to three years.

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

NIGEL LAWSON

