



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

7 July 1989

Dear David

Gaelic Television Services

The Home Secretary has seen the Secretary of State for Scotland's minute of 30 June to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer's letter of 6 July.

The Home Secretary can see some of the attractions in these proposals, particularly in view of the campaign for Gaelic television which has taken place on both sides of the Border. But in view of the Chancellor's comments on the subsidy aspects of the proposals, the small population involved and the implications the scheme might have for those who want other types of specialist broadcasting services, the Home Secretary thinks more time is needed to settle the policy. Nor would the Home Secretary favour your Secretary of State floating ideas on this issue when Ministers are not sure whether they will eventually want to carry out the scheme.

As regards 11 July, the Home Secretary suggests that your Secretary of State may wish to indicate that the subject is still under consideration, which is the line the Home Secretary proposes to take when he is top for questions on 13 July (two out of the first three questions are on Gaelic broadcasting).

The Home Secretary hopes, however, that the Government will be able to make a definitive announcement on the subject before the summer recess.

Copies of this go to Caroline Slocock (No 10), Private Secretaries of Members of MISC 128, and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely
CJW
C J WALTERS

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Broadcasting
Policy

PLG.