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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

24 July 1989

*From the Private Secretary*

*Dear David,*

**GAELIC TELEVISION SERVICES**

The Prime Minister was grateful for your Secretary of State's further minute of 13 July. She has also seen the Home Secretary's minute of 21 July.

The Prime Minister has noted that officials will now do further work on your Secretary of State's proposals. She would however be grateful if they could take into account the following points:

- the reference in the broadcasting white paper to Gaelic broadcasting was in the context of Cable and MVDs. It specifically stated "no change is implied in present policies towards Gaelic broadcasting at national or regional level";
- there are key differences between the position of the Gaelic and Welsh languages. For example, roughly 20 per cent of the population in Wales speak and write Welsh, compared with roughly 2 per cent of the Scottish population for Gaelic. The Welsh language is a significant issue throughout Wales, whereas Gaelic is largely confined to a region in Scotland and plays little role in Scottish national life;
- full consideration should be given to the effect that special funding for Gaelic broadcasting would have on demand for, and expectation of, similar treatment for other minority languages.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of MISC 128 and Sir Robin Butler.

*Yours,  
Paul*

(PAUL GRAY)

*fm*

David Crawley, Esq.,  
Scottish Office.