



ST. ANDREW'S HOUSE
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

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stage.*

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31 July 1989

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

Dear Douglas,

file with PG

SCHOOLS BROADCASTS

I refer to your letter of 19 July to Kenneth Baker.

I think we need to provide in the schools broadcasting proposals conditions which ensure that the needs of different education systems in the UK are fully recognised. It will be vital for schools broadcasting to follow as closely as possible the relevant curriculum.

I would therefore suggest that proposal (b) should be amended to impose on licensees a requirement to: "... show high quality schools broadcasts appropriate to the curriculum needs of schools in individual franchise areas" and that proposal (d) should be amended, perhaps by the addition of a final clause: "bearing in mind the existence of differing educational systems". For example, those who commission or produce programmes to be broadcast in Scotland should be required to consult with appropriate educational organisations and authorities in Scotland.

I welcome the inclusion of proposal (c) as worded, as I feel that broadcasting a proportion of schools' programmes within normal hours maintains a general audience which helps to keep standards high.

I am copying this letter to other members of MISC 128 and to Sir Robin Butler.

MALCOLM RIFKIND

