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CC PG



The Rt Hon Norman Lamont MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
HM Treasury
Parliament Street
LONDON
SW1P 3AG

MBM to his desk

Rec 6

3/10

2 October 1989

Dear Norman,

INDEPENDENT TELEVISION COMMISSION - S4C

with PG

I have seen a copy of Douglas Hurd's letter of 26 September to you about the S4C "safety net" being regarded as voted expenditure. I think that Douglas's proposals strike the right balance between ensuring proper accountability of public expenditure and us keeping at arm's length from the broadcasters in terms of exercising direct control over the purse strings.

It seems right, too, for the Home Office as the Department with broadcasting responsibilities to control the Vote - and for my part, I would be content with a similar arrangement on Gaelic, on which officials are completing the report we requested. I agree with Douglas, too, that the Vote should be non-cash-limited, and that the corollary of that is that any supplementary would be a charge on the Reserve.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Douglas Hurd, other members of MISC.128 and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours ever,
Malcolm Rifkind

MALCOLM RIFKIND

