

PRIME MINISTER

GUIDELINES FOR THE 1990 PUBLIC EXPENDITURE SURVEY

The Chief Secretary has minuted you (below) seeking agreement to the guidelines for the early part of the 1990 Public Expenditure Survey.

This is very much a routine document and the latest draft follows closely the practice of earlier years. The main purpose is to ensure that all the figures are pulled together on the right basis and the Treasury has the necessary authority to ensure that all options for savings are explored.

I have arranged separately for you to talk to the Chancellor and the Chief Secretary next week about the public expenditure prospects this year, and they will be letting you have a separate minute about that in the next few days. With that talk coming up you may think it would be better to delay approving the attached guidelines. But I doubt if that is necessary; as I say the guidelines are very much a routine bit of the mechanics of the exercise.

Content to agree the Survey guidelines?

Yes not

AGG.

PAUL GRAY

28 March 1990

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