



Minister for Local Government  
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CONFIDENTIAL

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P/PSO/33384/90

n.b. P.M.

BHP

30/8

28 AUG 1990

Dear Norman

In Chris Patten's absence from the office, I am replying to your letter of 14 August about the press reports on the Public Expenditure Survey.

I share your views about the need to keep correspondence on this in strict confidence: as you may imagine, on the detailed question, the way in which reference to HATs appeared in the newspaper was very unwelcome in this department. But of course the wider question about the Survey is the over-riding concern.

Your letter, which has been circulated to Ministers and senior officials here, will serve as a further reminder of the need for confidentiality and care in handling correspondence on this subject.

I am copying this as for your letter.

Yours ever

Michael.

MICHAEL PORTILLO

The Rt Hon Norman Lamont MP



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