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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Stephen Wall Esq
Principal Private Secretary
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1

26 October 1990

Dear Stephen,

AUTUMN STATEMENT PRESS NOTICES

The Chief Secretary attaches great importance to ensuring a co-ordinated presentation of the public expenditure plans to be announced in the Autumn Statement. While it is clearly important to present particular decisions in a positive light, the Chief Secretary has asked me to stress that the overall presentation will also need to be consistent with the Government's macroeconomic priorities. He recalls that at the July Cabinet discussion of public expenditure, colleagues stressed the political importance of maintaining the Government's reputation for sound financial management.

2. On the day of the Autumn Statement, the Chancellor proposes to issue the Industry Act forecast and summary material on the new expenditure plans, including a number of tables. The Chief Secretary hopes that departments will be ready as usual to issue press notices on the same day. These should be cleared with the Treasury to ensure consistency with other documents published on the same day. They should also emphasise the outputs to be achieved as well as the money to be spent.

3. The date of the Autumn Statement has not yet been settled. But the Chief Secretary would be most grateful if you could ensure that:

- (i) your department's normal Treasury expenditure division contact is informed by close on Tuesday next, 30 October whether your department intends to issue a press notice on the day of the Autumn Statement.
- (ii) your department provides Tony Lyons in the Treasury (270 5012) also by 30 October with the name and telephone number of someone in your department who can be contacted later about detailed arrangements for sending copies of the final press notice to the Treasury.

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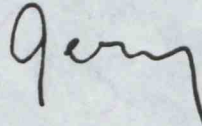
(iii) a draft of any press notice your department intends to issue is sent to your department's normal Treasury expenditure division contact by close on Wednesday 31 October.

4. I will be in touch about detailed arrangements for handling the final press notices when the date of the Autumn Statement is settled.

5. If asked about the date of the Autumn Statement, departments should say that the public expenditure round has not yet been concluded, and that the Autumn Statement will be made as soon as practicable after Parliament returns on 7 November.

6. I am copying this letter to Barry Potter (No. 10), the Private Secretaries to all Cabinet Ministers, and to Colin Pipe, (Attorney General's Office), Martin Le Jeune (Office of the Minister for the Arts), Suma Chakrabarti, (Office of the Minister for Overseas Development), Alan Maxwell (Lord Advocate's Office), Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office), and to the Private Secretaries to the Chairman of the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise.

Your own,



JEREMY HEYWOOD
Private Secretary

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