



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

10 September 1984

*ndpam  
amb  
10/9*

*Dear Quintin*

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME

You will recall that after Cabinet had approved the legislation programme for 1984/85, I wrote to you and colleagues on 6 March emphasising the need to prepare Bills in good time for the start of the Session, and in particular to address policy issues at a sufficiently early stage to allow time to iron out unexpected problems. Despite colleagues' efforts some Bills will nevertheless be introduced late; and I am anxious that we should improve our performance next time. Can I therefore give colleagues advance notice that in early November the Cabinet Office will be seeking bids for places in the 1985/86 legislative programme, and indeed for some advance places in 1986/87. It is important that colleagues should start thinking now what Bills they want to bid for, so that the bids themselves reflect so far as possible developed rather than purely broad - brush ideas. Colleagues whose work is well advanced may indeed find it helpful to seek outline policy approval from the relevant Cabinet Committee in advance of submitting bids. Securing this is no guarantee that a bid will be accepted, but colleagues will recall from the last exercise that QL is more likely to look favourably on Bills for which there has been some solid preparation and which have already secured outline approval from colleagues.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, members of QL, all Ministers in charge of Departments, and to First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*John Major  
Billie*

The Rt Hon Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone CH

Parliament PT 12

legislative Programme

10  
9  
8  
7  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1

1984



HOUSE OF LORDS,  
SW1A 0PW

19 September 1984

Dear Willie:

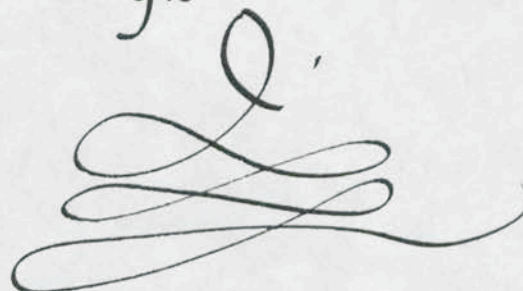
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME

Thank you for your letter of 10th September 1984.

I strongly support your initiative in writing to colleagues personally at this stage to remind them about the Legislative Programme and the need to maintain it; in making your positive suggestions concerning early submission of developed proposals for outline policy approval before the bidding season starts; and in mentioning that there will be advance bids for some places in 1986/87.

All my experience has convinced me that time spent in thorough planning and careful drafting of legislation is time well spent. I have seen many worthwhile proposals spoilt by speedy, late decisions and drafting for which the supposed constraints of the Parliamentary timetable have been blamed.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, members of QL, all Ministers in charge of Departments, and to First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

yrs.  


The Right Honourable  
The Viscount Whitelaw, CH., MC.,