

CONFIDENTIAL



Prime Minister^①
 Content, subject to
 business managers

AT
 12/12

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
 01-233 3000

12 December 1984

Andrew Turnbull Esq
 10 Downing Street
 LONDON SW1

Dear Andrew

1985 BUDGET DAY

You wrote to me on 19 September to confirm that the Prime Minister was content for us to plan on the basis that Budget day next year would be 19 March.

It is customary to announce the date of the Budget in the first Business Statement after the Christmas Recess. The normal form is for an announcement to be made in reply to a question by the Leader of the Opposition who is prompted in advance by the Chief Whip. This year, however, the Chancellor sees some arguments for making the announcement before Christmas, during the Business Statement on 20 December. This would permit those involved in preparations for the asset sales needed to achieve the target for the 1984-85 financial year to make their plans in full knowledge of the date of next year's Budget.

I should be grateful for confirmation that the Prime Minister is content for us to proceed in this way with a 20 December announcement.

I am copying this to David Morris and to Murdo Maclean. If the Lord Privy Seal is content for an announcement to be made on 20 December, I should also be grateful if the Whips' Office could make the necessary arrangements.

*Yours ever
 David*

D L C PERETZ
 Principal Private Secretary

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Budget
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cc LPS (Moms)
CW (Maelean)

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 December 1984

BUDGET DAY

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 12 December. Subject to the views of the Lord Privy Seal and the Chief Whip she is content for an announcement to be made on 20 December that the 1985 Budget Day will be on 19 March.

(ANDREW TURNBULL)

David Peretz Esq
HM Treasury.

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