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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon Tony Newton OBE MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Minister of Trade and Industry
Department of Trade and Industry
1 - 19 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

MBM
RC/6
11/11

11 November 1988

Dear Chancellor of the Duchy, ac for

TV LICENSING ORGANISATION: NEW BUSINESS

Thank you for your letter of 3 November in which you propose that TVL be allowed to extend its activities to compiling and operating subscriber registers for the new satellite broadcasting organisations. I have also seen the Prime Minister's comments in Paul Gray's letter of 7 November. — *TOP ENCL*

I agree with your view that TVL should undertake this new work only on a contractual basis and that the organisation should not itself invest directly in the necessary resources. On that basis, I am content with your proposal.

I note that you see TVL as a good candidate for early privatisation and that you will be asking the Post Office to include in their next Corporate Plan, a detailed strategy for achieving this by end 1990-91. I think it will also be essential to have City advice on the best method and timing of sale before we take final decisions and I am sure you have this in mind. No doubt you will be writing further to Norman Lamont on how you plan to proceed.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Douglas Hurd, members of E(NI) and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely,
P. Walters

pp JOHN MAJOR
(Approved by the Chief Secretary
and signed in his absence)

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