

CONFIDENTIAL

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*Norman Lamont*

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*29/11*

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind QC MP  
Secretary of State for Scotland  
Scottish Office  
Dover House  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AU

29 November 1989

*Dear Secretary of State*

**GAELIC TELEVISION SERVICES**

Thank you for your letter of 10 November.

2 You asked me to look again at the Vote responsibility for any payments to support the production of Gaelic television programmes. I have done so and find that, as you say, there are no comparable payments in support of English commercial television programmes. Since you wish to introduce this new subsidy to support the Gaelic language I believe the costs should fall on a Scottish Vote so you can consider them alongside your other priorities.

3 I note your concern about the relative treatment of the Gaelic TV Production Fund and the payments to S4C. You will however now have seen Peter Walker's letter of 3 November (to which I shall be replying separately) which suggests that there are some distinguishing features in the two cases.

4 You also suggested that any money would need to come from outside the Scottish Block. I disagree and can offer you no hope that extra resources would be provided. Where territorial departments wish to provide services not required in England they are generally expected to do so from their Block. For example, grants in support of the Welsh language are paid in this way at present and I would expect you to follow suit. If this is not, in your view, a sufficiently high priority, then no payments should be made.

5 I am copying this letter to other members of MISC 128 and to Sir Robin Butler.

*Yours sincerely  
Norman Lamont*

**NORMAN LAMONT**  
*approved by the Chief Secretary and signed*

BROADCASTING: Pd pr10

