



me SLH  
c/w

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

1 December 1989

Dear Colin,

**BROADCASTING BILL: IMPARTIALITY AND BALANCE**

Thank you for your letter of 17 November to Dominic Morris which the Prime Minister has seen.

The Prime Minister's views on the four points raised in your letter are as follows:

- (i) she is content that the ITC should be required to draw up and publish a code of impartiality.
- (ii) she considers that all local cable services, whether relating to national or local channels, should be subject to the lighter undue prominence test set out in the 1984 Act. She does not think that any of these services should attract the due impartiality test.
- (iii) she does not think the application of the due impartiality test in relation to matters of political or industrial controversy should be restricted simply to matters of current controversy. She believes it should also apply to matters with a historical aspect.
- (iv) she is content with the proposal that broadcasters should be allowed to participate in televised debates on the subject of broadcasting.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to Members of MISC 128, Robert Canniff (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

*Paul Gray*

PAUL GRAY

Colin Walters, Esq.,  
Home Office

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