

CONFIDENTIAL



Mr. [unclear]

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

2 January 1990

Dear Colin,

BROADCASTING BILL: INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION

The Prime Minister was grateful for the Home Secretary's further minute of 19 December. She does, however, remain concerned about the proposed arrangements for the independent production requirement. She feels that the vested interests are seeking to find every way to frustrate the development of independent producers. Against that background, she strongly supports the earlier argument of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry that 25 per cent should be met by the BBC earlier than the beginning of 1994.

As regards the treatment of news and similar programmes in relation to the initiative, the Prime Minister accepts that a distinction between national and local news programmes could be difficult to implement. Rather than adopting that approach, she thinks that a better approach might be for all news to be excluded from the 25 per cent target, but for all current affairs programmes to be included.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of MISC 128 and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

*Yours,
Paul*

PAUL GRAY

Colin Walters, Esq.,
Home Office.

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