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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

18 May 1984

Dear Len

DMS
18/5

TELEVISION LICENCES FOR HOTELS

You wrote to me on 19 April ^{with DS} seeking H Committee's agreement to a new formula for charging licence fees in respect of hotel guest rooms.

Three issues have arisen in the subsequent correspondence. First, the Prime Minister proposed a slightly more generous formula - one fee to cover fifteen rooms and a further fee for every five additional rooms - and in view of pressure to make an announcement I agreed that Douglas Hurd could make this public on 3 May. Secondly, your proposal to apply the same formula to caravan sites, holiday camps and self-help catering establishments has not as yet won the Committee's approval, and I think that Norman Tebbit and other colleagues are right to say that the issues must be explored further with them and representative organisations before we can take a decision. Thirdly, Patrick Jenkin has written suggesting that the 5p concessionary licence should apply to private sector as well as to public sector sheltered housing schemes. I would be grateful if you could consult him and Peter Rees direct about that and let me know whether you are able to reach agreement.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the members of H Committee, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Norman
Brittan

The Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP

BROADCASTING: Finances of BBC

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