

NBSM AT 17/10



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R J Broadbent Esq
Private Secretary to the Chief Secretary
to the Treasury
Treasury Chambers
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16 October 1984

Dear Richard,

will register if required

You sent me a note of the Chief Secretary's meeting with my Secretary of State on 1 October about Public Expenditure.

We are content with the note, except for one point. We do not accept that it was agreed that the further study on the Northern Ireland Block should have a deadline of June 1985. As was explained at the bilateral, we do not believe that a thoroughgoing and worthwhile exercise can be completed in time to inform the work on the 1985 Survey. Our reasons for holding this view were fully explained at the bilateral and appeared to be understood by the Chief Secretary.

We consider that the discussion would be more accurately reflected by replacing para 9(iii) with the following:-

"Northern Ireland would participate in further work on needs assessment provided that the other territorial Departments did so and there was access to appropriate information from Whitehall Departments. Officials should aim to report by June 1985 but it was recognised that the thoroughgoing exercise which was required might well take longer to complete. The modalities to be discussed in the first place between officials."

I should be grateful if you would adjust the note of the meeting accordingly. A copy of this letter goes to Andrew Turnbull (No 10).

Yours ever,

Graham Sandiford

G K SANDIFORD

CONFIDENTIAL

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