

CCEB



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The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd CBE QC MP
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NBM

Douglas Hurd

at flap

Thank you for your letter of 19 February. I am glad that you were able to incorporate the thrust of my main point into the Green Paper, with which I am now content.

Looking beyond the Green Paper, however, I remain concerned at the question of needletime. In particular, I am concerned not only that it is an exploitation of a monopoly position, but that it might act as a discouragement to prospective broadcasters. Unless the Performing Right Tribunal proposes to end the needletime restriction - or at least curtail it significantly across the board - I am not sure that it is satisfactory to leave the matter in their hands. This is a matter on which the lead lies with Paul Channon. I would welcome his and your views on whether and how we could take more effective action. I think we might then discuss the issues in E(CP), which I chair and which you could attend for this purpose.

I am copying this letter to Paul Channon and the other members of MISC 128.

Nigel Lawson

NIGEL LAWSON



Broadcasting: Legislation PT2.

