



Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

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The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd CBE, MP  
Secretary of State for Home Affairs  
Home Office  
50 Queen Anne's Gate  
LONDON SW1

*Neil Taylor*

**ITV SYSTEM : NETWORKING**

I have seen Nigel Lawson's letter of 9 September to you proposing, in lieu of the "three wise men" suggested in my letter of 10 August, a group of officials to study this important question. I have also seen the letter of 21 September from No 10 giving the Prime Minister's views.

My prime concern was to ensure a thorough and rapid review, independent of the IBA. A specially set up interdepartmental group of officials would therefore meet those concerns.

The perspective of broadcasting as an industry, which we wish to make more subject to competitive pressures than it has been in the past, is an important one. I therefore share the Prime Minister's view that someone from the competition side of my department should be involved.

Equally broadcasting is an industry whose export potential I believe to be far from fully realised. Any new financial arrangements for the ITV companies must be considered from this angle too.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Nigel Lawson and other members of MISC 128, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours*  
*Neil*

LORD YOUNG OF GRAFFHAM

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