

LCBB  
(570 paper)



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

David Norgrove Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1

CF Please tell the Treasury  
not to expect a comment from the  
Prime Minister

11 December 1987

Dear David,

DNW  
11/12

NBFA

1988 PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WHITE PAPER

The 1988 public expenditure White Paper will give the details of the Government's expenditure plans for the next three years, filling in the background to the totals announced by the Chancellor in his Autumn Statement.

...

I enclose a draft of Volume I. This year the structure of the White Paper has been changed, so that all the summary material appears in Volume I and only the departmental chapters will be in Volume II. We do not propose to circulate Volume II to Cabinet in draft, although copies of any of the chapters can be provided on request. The texts for these chapters have been agreed with the relevant departments and proofs of each department's chapter will be sent to them for checking as soon as they are available.

As last year, the draft is being circulated at this stage to allow Ministers more time to comment. However, this does mean that the figures in the tables are not yet final - several queries are being pursued by officials this week. This caveat applies in particular to the figures for the estimated outturn for 1987-88. Small changes to the text of Chapter 4 will also be necessary to take account of privatisation proposals. Treasury officials will be in touch with officials in the relevant departments about this.

The Chief Secretary proposes that the White Paper should be published on 19 or 20 January, slightly later than this year. This avoids a potential clash with the debate on the Autumn Statement. The precise date will

need to be fixed in the light of the publication date of the proposed DTI White Paper. I would be grateful if you could confirm that neither of these dates would cause difficulties. I will be in touch nearer the time about arrangements for publicity etc.

In order to meet the printing timetable, it is necessary to finalise the White Paper before the Christmas break. I would be grateful if comments could be sent to this office by Friday 18 December.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to other members of Cabinet and Mr Luce, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours*

*Jin*

JILL RUTTER  
Private Secretary