

CJG



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Jon Shortridge Esq
 Private Secretary to the
 Secretary of State for Wales
 Welsh Office
 Gwydyr House
 Whitehall
 London
 SW1A 2ER

NBLm

P.C.

HCG 6/1

5 January 1988

Dear Jon,

1988 PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WHITE PAPER

ECON POL: PES. P. 38.
 File with PG

Thank you for your letter of 21 December, reporting your Secretary of State's comments on the draft of Volume I of the White Paper.

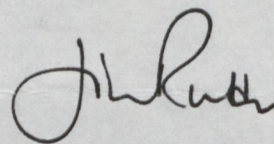
His first suggestion was that the summary tables should show figures for the original provision for 1987-88 as well as the estimated outturn. I am afraid that it would now be too late to make such a fundamental change for this year's White Paper, which is at an advanced stage of production. The presentation is of course the same as that in previous White Papers, and we see advantage in sticking to it. It is true that there is a discontinuity in the series of departmental figures between outturn years, where the Reserve has been distributed, and the plans, where it has not, but equally it would be misleading to compare the new plans with plans formed a year earlier, taking no account of developments during the year which have influenced the setting of those new plans. We have agreed with your office, however, that a footnote should be inserted at tables 2.1 and 2.2 explaining the differences between provision and outturn, as follows:

"The figures for 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 make no allowance for allocation to departmental programmes from the Reserve."

We can meet the two other points you mention. A footnote will be added to Table 4.8 on the lines you suggest, and Welsh expenditure will not be shown separately in the Science and Technology table (2.12) but combined with the 'other departments' line.

I am copying this letter to David Norgrove and David Crawley.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jill Rutter".

JILL RUTTER
Private Secretary

Econ Pol: Public

EXP 1438

