



W
P
20
cc BI

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

5 May 1988

FINANCIAL REPORTING TO PARLIAMENT

Thank you for your letter of 4 May. The Prime Minister is content for the Treasury's memorandum to be published as a White Paper.

I am copying this letter to Alison Smith (Lord President's Office) and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Paul Gray

Alex Allan, Esq.,
H.M. Treasury.

P

PRIME MINISTER

FINANCIAL REPORTING TO PARLIAMENT

The Treasury's memorandum announcing the changes in documentation on financial reporting to Parliament has now gone to the PAC and TCSC. Alex Allan's letter of 4 May, attached, records Terence Higgins' request that it should also be published as a Command Paper or a House of Commons paper. The Chancellor sees some marginal advantage in agreeing to this.

Content for the document to be published as a White Paper on either Friday or Monday?

Recg.

Yes

PAUL GRAY

4 May 1988



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-270 3000

4 May 1988

Paul Gray, Esq
No.10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Paul,

FINANCIAL REPORTING TO PARLIAMENT

The Treasury's memorandum was sent last week to the PAC and TCSC under cover of letters to the two Clerks. It requested the Committees to agree that the document should be made available more widely without waiting for it to be published as a House of Commons paper by one or both of the Committees.

Both Chairmen were content for the document to be disseminated more widely, and it was published yesterday under a Treasury press release. Mr Higgins, however, said he hoped it could also be published as a White Paper. This reflects a study the Liaison Committee has conducted into the way in which departments respond to Select Committee reports. As Chairman of that Committee he has written to the Lord President recommending more uniformity - with publication as either a Command Paper or a House of Commons paper being the norm.

The Chancellor sees no objection, and possibly some marginal advantage, to meeting this request and putting out the Government's response as a White Paper. I should be grateful if you could arrange for the Prime Minister's clearance. It would be published either on Friday or on Monday.

I am copying this to Alison Smith (Lord President's Office) and to Sir Robin Butler (Cabinet Office).

Yours
Alex

A C S ALLAN
Principal Private
Secretary