

PAUL GRAY

29 June 1989

TRANSMISSION AND NIGHT HOURS

I have now read the minute from the Home Secretary to the Prime Minister on the above and have no substantial comments, except to say:

- (a) the drafts are fine although I am a little nervous about the sentence beginning in the tenth line on page 2 of the draft on privatisation of the transmission system; I do not know quite how this might be used by the BBC to obviate ^{the ban on} joint ventures with the private sector;
- (b) in terms of variations in the regional cost of transmission, I have no objection to the NAR option which the Home Secretary is content with - even though the Treasury option is more attractive. I do find the point made in 4b a real political difficulty.

BRG

BRIAN GRIFFITHS