



Prime Minister

Content subject to other Ministers' comments?

(Seems quite unexceptionable)

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

T P Lankester Esq
Private Secretary to
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AL

18 September 1979

PL
20/9

Dear Tim,

ms.

CASH LIMITS 1978- 79: PUBLICATION OF PROVISIONAL
OUTTURN WHITE PAPER

... In your letter of August 29 you recorded the Prime Minister's agreement in principle to publishing a White Paper setting out the outturns for cash limits in 1978-79. I attach a draft of the White Paper.

The draft follows closely the format of earlier years with a short introductory text followed by tables showing the provisional outturn on individual cash limits in 1978-79 and the latest figures for 1977-78. The precise figures are still being finalised by officials.

But this administration not responsible

The provisional figures suggest that four cash limits were breached in 1978-79 compared with two in 1977-78 and two in 1976-77. The reasons for these breaches are currently being examined and the Chief Secretary will be considering what action needs to be taken.

PL

Overall cash limits were underspent in 1978-79, although by rather less than in earlier years. The unspent money in cash limits amounted to some £480 million on central government cash limits totalling over £30 billion and some £550 million on local authority totalling over £5 billion.

I am copying this to the Private Secretaries to other members of the Cabinet and to Sir John Hunt. Subject to any comments received by September 25, the White Paper will be published on October 5, accompanied by a Press Notice covering the main points of interest.

Yours sincerely,
A C Pirie

A C PIRIE
Private Secretary



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 September 1979

Dear Alistair,

Thank you for your letter of 18 September about the publication of the White Paper setting out the outturns for cash limits in 1978/79.

I have shown this to the Prime Minister, and she is content for the White Paper to be published on the basis of the draft enclosed with your letter - subject to any comments from other Ministers.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of Cabinet and to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours

Tim Latham.

A. C. Pirie, Esq.,
Chief Secretary's Office,
HM Treasury.