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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE

WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

9 October 1985
NBM

Dear Quinton

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1986-87

Despite colleagues' efforts some Bills for the forthcoming session will still be introduced late and this is causing some concern to the business managers. I am anxious to do all we can to avoid this problem in the 1986-87 Session. I would therefore like to give colleagues notice that next month the Cabinet Office will be seeking bids for places in the 1986/87 legislative programme and indeed for some advance places in 1987/88. It is important that colleagues should start thinking now what Bills they want to bid for, so that the bids themselves reflect so far as possible developed rather than purely broad-brush ideas. Colleagues whose work is well advanced may indeed find it helpful to seek outline policy approval from the relevant Cabinet Committee in advance of submitting bids. Securing this is no guarantee that a bid will be accepted, but colleagues will recall from previous exercises that QL is more likely to look favourably on Bills for which there has been some solid preparation and which have already secured outline approval from colleagues. And of course there will be occasions when it could avoid the use of scarce resources on work which stands no chance of becoming legislation.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister,
members of QL, all Ministers in charge of Departments,
and to First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Justin
Weller*

The Rt Hon Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone





Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

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14 October 1985

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CH MC
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
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NSM

D. Willie.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1986-87

I very much welcomed seeing your letter of 9 October to Quintin Hailsham. I have no doubt that the pressure of bids for the 1986-87 session will be every bit as great as that for the forth coming session. And it will be important for us to ensure that the legislative programme reflects our established policy priorities. So I hope that colleagues will take fully to heart your suggestion that they should, whenever appropriate, seek outline policy approval before their bids are submitted.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, Members of QL, Ministers in charge of Departments and to Sir George Engle and Sir Robert Armstrong.

attachee

NORMAN TEBBIT

