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HOUSE OF LORDS,  
SW1A 0PW

The Right Honourable  
The Viscount Whitelaw, CH., MC.,  
Lord President of the Council.

10 April 1986

My dear Willie:

QL: LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1986/87  
Rate Support Grant Settlement 1986/87:  
Bill proposed for this Session by the Secretary of State for the Environment

Thank you for your letter of 24th March.

WILL REQUEST IF REQUIRED.

I feel that I must emphasise the importance which I attach to the regular provision of Parliamentary Draftsmen at the Law Commission as an essential tool in the Commission's work if it is to produce a programme of properly planned and fully thought-out proposals for law reform. However, I appreciate that the pressures of the Programme we have agreed in Cabinet for 1986/87 are exceptional both in the time by which Bills will be needed and in the weight and complexity of a number of the Bills themselves. I also recognise the burden which has just been cast on First Parliamentary Counsel's resources by the urgent need for a Rate Support Grant Bill.

Whilst I do not welcome either your proposed expedient for next Session or the need to make further use of the expedient to which we have already resorted this Session, I accept that the needs of policy and the Programme both now and for next Session

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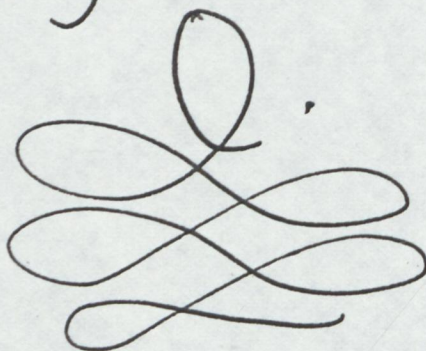
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must be allowed to override the longterm interests of law reform.

You have my support for the use for these urgent purposes of Draftsmen attached to the Law Commission.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, to the members of QL and the Secretary of State for the Environment and to First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

yrs:

A handwritten signature consisting of a large, stylized initial 'L' followed by several overlapping loops and flourishes.

