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cc Ba.



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:
Your ref:

The Rt Hon The Viscount Whitelaw CH MC
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

16 June 1987

Dear Willie

NBAW.

RATE REFORM BILL

The timetable for introducing this Bill requires us to complete instructions to Counsel before the end of July, but we still have to discuss collectively a number of key policy issues. The Cabinet Office is making arrangements for a series of E(LF) meetings in the coming weeks to discuss these.

My purpose in writing is to seek the help and forbearance of colleagues over the coming weeks when we shall need to ask for urgent comments, sometimes on complex issues and at short notice. While we will try to meet the usual deadlines so far as possible I hope you will agree that the first priority must be to ensure that this substantial legislation is available in time and that the key policy decisions are taken in time for Parliamentary Counsel to complete their work.

I think it would also assist if the official level Sub Committee (E(LF)(O)) which steered the preparation of the original Green Paper could now be reactivated under DOE Chairmanship as before.

I am copying this letter to the other members of E(LF) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely
Nicholas

NICHOLAS RIDLEY