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**CONFIDENTIAL**

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Secretary of State

The Rt Hon Chris Patten MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
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*MBM  
BACG  
11/10*

*October 28*

*Dear Chris,*



*will R?*

**NNDR MULTIPLIER AND THE NNDR DISTRIBUTABLE AMOUNT**

I very much agree with the arguments in your letter of 25 October to Norman Lamont and in particular that the NNDR multiplier should be set at 35.5 pence if possible, and no higher than 35.6 pence. Rates are an important element of business costs and should be minimised as far as possible in the present climate of depressed business confidence. I am also particularly concerned about the position of small businesses who are still, as you know, very unhappy with the transitional provisions despite the recent concessions.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of E(LG) and to Sir Robin Butler.

*[Handwritten signature]*

**NORMAN FOWLER**



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Employment Department · Training Agency  
Health and Safety Executive · ACAS

