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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

8 May 1985

MBPM

Dear Hugh,

Thank you for your letter of 3[✓] May about the request of the NAO to see the unpublished supplementary volumes of the Peat Marwick report on the BBC.

I agree that these volumes should be made available. I would suggest, however, that since the NAO appreciate (second paragraph of your letter) that their remit does not extend to the BBC, perhaps the basis on which this is done might be achieved by merely adding after "enclose a copy" the words "for use in accordance with the provisions of the National Audit Act 1983. As you appreciate, the BBC itself is of course outside the scope of the Act". The remainder of the letter could then be deleted.

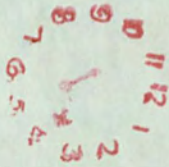
I am copying this letter to Tim Flesher (No 10), the Private Secretaries to the other members of the Cabinet, to Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

As ever,
David

D R MORRIS
Private Secretary

H Taylor Esq
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for the Home Department

BROADCASTING: Training of BBC
PT 2



29 MAY 1945

DRAFT LETTER

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE

TO	ENCLOSURES	COPIES TO BE SENT TO
<p data-bbox="267 417 607 508">E S Young, Esq., National Audit Office</p> <p data-bbox="240 802 602 836">(FULL POSTAL ADDRESS)</p>		<p data-bbox="987 802 1484 836">(FULL ADDRESSES, IF NECESSARY)</p>

LETTER DRAFTED FOR SIGNATURE BY MR HALLIDAY

(NAME OF SIGNATORY)

Thank you for your letter of 13 March formally requesting a copy of the full Peat Marwick report on value for money in the BBC in connection with a possible economy, efficiency and effectiveness examination in relation to the settlement of the licence fee and the part played in this by the report.

As you know, the Peat Marwick report consists of a main report and two supplementary volumes. The Corporation has already published the main report but not the supplementary volumes, which the BBC has explained contain commercially sensitive information. Given the care with which the National Audit Office customarily treat information of this kind we have no objection to your see the supplementary volumes and I therefore
 enclose a copy. In doing so, however, I must make it clear that we are not persuaded that the National Audit Act 1983, by reference to which, as we understand it, your formal request is made, would necessarily entitle you to access to the report for the purposes you describe.

It is not apparent to us that such an examination as you have in mind would be within the terms of Act, or that the Peat Marwick report, which is, of course, about economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the BBC (which the Act specifically excludes you from examining), would be relevant to an examination of the Home Office's use of its resources in discharging its functions.