

FCS/84/6CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUERGuide for the European Elections

1. As part of the preparations for the European elections, the Research Department and the EDG Secretariat have produced a draft election guide. This has now been discussed by the joint committee which I chair, and it is clear that it would be very desirable for colleagues to let me have their views on the relevant chapters. Peter Cropper will shortly be sending these to your office and I would be extremely grateful if you could arrange for them to be dealt with urgently by a Special Adviser or, where appropriate and if possible, by a departmental Minister. The object is to correct errors, to update, and to fill in omissions. In some cases, I fear, this may well involve a fairly sizeable input. Because of the time pressures for printing and publication, specific drafting proposals would be desirable. In some cases it could be particularly useful - and perhaps involve less trouble at your end - if you could let me have some background briefing documents that already exist.

2. We aim to get final texts to the printers before the end of January, so it would be helpful if comments or other material could be made available within one working week of its receipt. I am sorry to trouble you with this request. I should not do so if I did not regard the need as important.

3. I am sending this minute to all Cabinet colleagues who need to receive chapters of the guide, and copying it to the Chief Whip, the Lord President of the Council, John Selwyn Gummer, Michael Spicer, Henry Plumb and Peter Cropper.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

9 January 1984