

CCBG



NBRN.

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My ref:

Your ref:

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

18 September 1986

Dear Annie

with DEN

E(LF): COMMUNITY CHARGE - FRAMEWORK OF DUTIES AND OFFENCES

Malcolm Rifkind copied to me his letter to you of 10 September on this subject.

Because there is no equivalent in England and Wales to the Sheriff, we shall necessarily have rather different arrangements for appeals from those Malcolm has suggested for Scotland. My officials are discussing this matter with other Departments; I shall be putting forward my own proposals shortly.

The drafting of the letter implies that Registration Officers would have discretion to waive the £50 civil penalty even for those 'responsible persons' who did not have a reasonable excuse for failing to respond to a canvas. However, I gather that was not the intention. I certainly feel that, in the case of responsible persons and individuals, the penalty should (subject to appeal) be automatic unless there was a reasonable excuse.

I am copying this to other members of E(LF), to the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Advocate and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Nicholas Ridley'.

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

Handwritten initials, possibly 'NR', written in cursive.

Local Gov't: Future of Reading System - PS

