

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CBH



HOUSE OF LORDS,  
SW1A 0PW

6 November 1986

My dear Willie:

WBM

E(LF): COMMUNITY CHARGE - APPEALS

I have seen a copy of Nicholas Ridley's letter to you dated 24th October.

As I mentioned before, I am content in principle that appeals relating to the community charge should lie in the first instance to modified local valuation courts and that further appeals on valuation matters should continue to lie to the Lands Tribunal. In principle, I agree that appeals on points of law from the modified local valuation courts should lie to the High Court but I think that our officials should discuss the detailed method of appealing and consider whether leave to appeal should be required.

I take it that Nicholas Ridley is proposing that, except on valuation matters where such appeals already lie, there should be no appeals on question of fact from the local valuation courts.

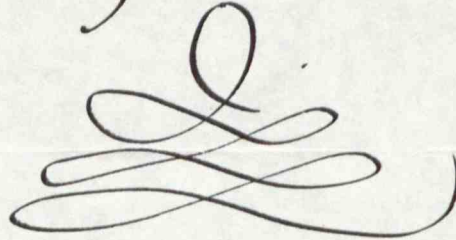
Nicholas Ridley's paper mentions that there will be additional expenditure for the legal aid fund under the Green Form scheme. My officials are attempting to estimate the likely extent of this and will be writing to his. However, I can say now that the actual costs here could be substantial. For example, if all 200,000 of the non-valuation appellants qualified for green form assistance, at the current average bill cost of £49.50, the total cost would be about £10 million. Officials will need to discuss the appropriate assumptions to be used in this calculation about eligibility for green form assistance, and unit costs, before I can make an accurate assessment of the likely overall cost to me. But I must say now that I would find it impossible to absorb any significant additional expenditure on this within my existing programme. The same applies to any

...increases

The Right Honourable  
Viscount Whitelaw, CHMC,  
Lord President of the Council,  
Privy Council Office,  
Whitehall,  
London, SW1.

increases in the workload of the courts and my officials will be in touch with DoE officials on this aspect too.

Copies of this go to Nicholas Ridley, to the members of E(LF), to the Lord Advocate and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yrs :  


LOCAL GOVT: Rating reevaluation ..PES

