



CC/B/G

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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From the Secretary of State for Social Services

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

17 February 1987

Dear Willie.

ABOLITION OF DOMESTIC RATE ETC (SCOTLAND) BILL - TRANSITIONAL PERIOD 1988 - 1992

Malcolm Rifkind copied to me his letter of 6 February proposing that the community charge be introduced in Scotland in April 1989 as a "clean break" without the three year transitional period provided for in the Bill.

This would certainly simplify the administrative arrangements and reduce costs, and I would support the proposal on these grounds. It would, however, increase pressure on us to give details of the community charge rebate arrangements, but this would need to await fuller consideration of the expenditure and caseload implications.

The proposal would lead to pressure for doing without a transitional period in England and Wales, where the effects would be much greater. I would hope that we could avoid giving any commitment so far as England and Wales are concerned until these can be properly assessed.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of E(LF) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Norman Fowler

NORMAN FOWLER

Local Gov't : Rating PT6.

