



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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From the Secretary of State for Social Services

Robin Young Esq
 Private Secretary to
 The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP
 Secretary of State for the Environment
 Department of the Environment
 2 Marsham Street
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25 February 1987

Dear Robin

COMMUNITY CHARGE: HELP FOR THOSE ON LOW INCOMES

My Secretary of State minuted the Prime Minister on 19 February about the correspondence on Councillor's Layden's letter of 23 December. He wished the reply to Councillor Layden to make clear that everyone would make a minimum contribution towards the community charge (in an unfortunate misprint for which many apologies this came out as a "maximum" contribution).

David Norgrove has asked me to agree a suitable form of words. I suggest the following which has been agreed by officials in your Department and mine: at the end of the first sentence in your second paragraph insert:

A / though each person liable would be required to make some community charge payment; the Social Security White Paper suggested that each household make at least a 20 per cent contribution towards domestic rates" / *B*

I am copying this letter to David Norgrove (No 10), Joan MacNaughton (Lord President's office), Stephen Boys Smith (Home Office), Jill Rutter (Chief Secretary's office), Robert Gordon (Scottish Office), Colin Williams (Welsh Office) and to Trevor Woolley in Sir Robert Armstrong's office. Would you and others let me know by close on 27 February if you see any problems with this.

Yours sincerely
Bruce Calderwood

Bruce Calderwood
 Private Secretary

