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The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley AMICE MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 3EB

26 March 1987 *BN*

Dear Nick

RATING OF SPORTS CLUBS

Thank you for your further letter of 18 March. I have also now seen John MacGregor's further letter of 24 March.

It will take some time to establish and implement a common valuation system, but I readily agree that the whole issue of reliefs will have to be considered afresh in that context. I will consider how I can best make this point clear.

As regards John's worries about additional costs to the Exchequer through rebates, we estimate that the maximum rate burden likely to be shifted from sports clubs to other categories of ratepayer/community charge payer as a result of my proposals is £1 million. The follow through effect of this on rebates will be very small.

I hope we can now regard this matter as closed.

I am copying this letter to Willie Whitelaw, to other members of E(LF), and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever
Malcolm

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