



R11/4

nbpm

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY
Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Minister of State for Social Security and the Disabled

The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP
Secretary of State for Scotland
Scottish Office
Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2AU

APR 1987

Dear Malcolm,

ABOLITION OF DOMESTIC RATES ETC (SCOTLAND) BILL TIED HOUSES

I have seen your letter of 31 March to Nigel Lawson, in which you comment on the community charge liability of people in tied accommodation

I agree the line you are taking; the community charge is a personal liability and is clearly the responsibility of the tenant, and if the landlord chooses to pay it, it should not be regarded as a business expense.

A consequence of this is that people in tied accommodation who are on low income will be able to apply for a community charge rebate, and will thus be brought within housing benefit for the first time. I see no insuperable administrative difficulty, but it will of course increase the expenditure of this Department.

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

Your Ever,
John
JOHN MAJOR