



Prime Minister

Ref. A087/2432

MR BEARPARK

No. 1 see no =

reason for a change of responsibility.

Content for me to reply as proposed?

Transfer of Rating Responsibility to the Secretary of State for Wales

1003
14/8

The minute of 6 August from the Secretary of State for the Environment proposes that responsibility for delegated functions under rating legislation be transferred to the Secretary of State for Wales, insofar as they relate to Wales.

2. The Welsh Office already has a substantial role in relation to local government finance in Wales and Mr Ridley notes that the transfer he proposes could be implemented in the forthcoming rate reform legislation. Unless there are any objections from other members of E(LF), there seems no objection to the proposal in machinery of government terms.

3. Mr Ridley's minute is silent as to the date on which the proposed transfer would take effect, and the terms in which it would be announced. Transfers of responsibility are generally announced by the Prime Minister (or occasionally, with her approval, by one of the departmental Ministers involved). If the Prime Minister is content with the proposal in principle, she may therefore wish you to ask for a draft announcement in due course. A draft minute for this purpose is attached.

Carl Bowdery

MISS C A BOWDERY

12 August 1987

DRAFT

Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for the Environment

Emma

TRANSFER OF RATING RESPONSIBILITY TO THE
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WALES

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's minute of 6 August proposing a transfer of responsibility for delegated functions under rating legislation in respect of Wales to the Secretary of State for Wales. Subject to any comments from other members of E(LF) she is content in principle. She has however asked what proposals your Secretary of State has for announcing the transfer; the Prime Minister will need to approve the announcement in draft and the draft should specify the date from which the transfer would take effect.

I am copying this minute to Private Secretaries to members of E(LF), Mr Luce and Sir Robert Armstrong.

P A BEARPARK

local Gov. Rates.
PR 8.

