

CONFIDENTIAL

cc B6



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My ref:  
Your ref:

The Rt Hon The Viscount Whitelaw CH MC  
Lord President of the Council  
Privy Council Office  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1

6 October 1987

Dear Lord President,

NRBM

RATE REFORM BILL

Thank you for your letter of 29 September about progress on the Rate Reform Bill. I am very grateful for your help.

I do agree that the earlier in December the Bill can be introduced the better. In my view, it would be greatly preferable to have Second Reading before the Christmas Recess, which means going to Legislation Committee in the first week of December at the latest. As you say, we shall need to keep a very close eye on progress. To this end it would be most helpful if First Parliamentary Counsel could provide us with provisional dates for when the major milestones will be reached to meet that timetable. As I said in my earlier letter, I and my officials are very ready to help in any way we can.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Whip, First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong, and, with the earlier correspondence, to the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales.

Yours sincerely,

*Nicholas Ridley*

PP NICHOLAS RIDLEY  
(Approved in draft by the Secretary of State and signed in his absence.)

LOCAL GOVT

RATES

PT 1

