



CCB

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My ref:

Your ref:

The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP
Secretary of State
Scottish Office
Dover House
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NBR 13 October 1987

Dear Malcolm

SCOTTISH INVOLVEMENT IN THE RATES REFORM BILL

Thank you for your letter of ~~29~~^{*11*} September about the handling of Scottish provisions in the Rates Reform Bill.

I am content for the Bill on Introduction to contain the minimum of Scottish provisions for the reasons you put forward. I would hope, moreover, that most of your provisions could appear towards the end of the Bill, possibly in a single schedule, so as to minimise scope for debate of Scottish issues.

As far as the presence of a Scottish Minister on the Committee is concerned, I would wish to be guided by the Business Managers. If they consider that a Scottish presence is not needed and that that line can be held in the inevitable row that will ensue, then I am content to ride out the storm. If on the other hand there is a chance that we would eventually have to give way, then I believe it would be better to include a Scottish Minister from the start and avoid an unnecessary row at the beginning of the Committee stage.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of E(LF), John Wakeham, David Waddington and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours
Nicholas*

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

LOCAL GOVT: Rats PT8

