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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
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3 December 1987

N BATT

Dear Sir

NEW BURDENS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

John Major sent me a copy of his letter to you of 23 November.

MAP P T 33

I welcome his support for the new burdens procedure. It is important that additional burdens are not imposed unthinkingly on local government not least because this can give hostile local authorities an excuse for their own incompetence.

We are generally successful in identifying new burdens as they arise and invoking the procedure. It may not always be possible fully to quantify potential impact on local government at this very preliminary stage which makes it all the more essential that the implications for local authorities are then carefully quantified, in consultation with the local authority associations, and that where necessary offsetting savings are found.

We will continue to rely very much on the continuing co-operation of sponsor Departments and my officials are, as always, very ready to advise on the practical implementation of the new burdens procedure.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of E(LA), the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Nicholas Ridley

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

LOCAL GOVT

RELATIONS

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