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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 APRIL 1988

Dear Roger,

COMMUNITY CHARGE AND RENT REBATES

I ATTACH A COPY OF A SPEAKING NOTE AGREED BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND YOUR SECRETARY OF STATE EARLIER THIS MORNING.

I AM SENDING COPIES OF THIS LETTER AND ENCLOSURE TO ALEX ALLAN (H.M. TREASURY), JILL RUTTER (CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE), GEOFFREY PODGER (DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY) AND TREVOR WOOLLEY (CABINET OFFICE).

Yours,
Paul
PAUL GRAY

ROGER BRIGHT, Esq.,
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

COMMUNITY CHARGE/RENT REBATES

FURTHER MEETINGS LAST WEEK LED TO A WIDER DISCUSSION ABOUT THE COMMUNITY CHARGE AND TO THE ANNOUNCED DECISION TO REDUCE THE RATE AT WHICH BENEFIT SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN IN 1990/91 FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE COMMUNITY CHARGE.

CONSISTENT WITH THAT DECISION THE RATE AT WHICH HOUSING BENEFIT FOR RENT PAYMENTS WILL BE WITHDRAWN IN 1989/90 WILL NOT BE INCREASED.

THE WHOLE COMMUNITY CHARGE REBATE ARRANGEMENTS WILL OF COURSE BE TREATED AS ONE.

FURTHER MEETINGS LAST WEEK ALSO CONCLUDED THAT DECISIONS ON THE RELATED EXCHEQUER GRANT FOR 1990/91 CANNOT BE TAKEN UNTIL THE SUMMER OF 1989 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NORMAL PROCEDURES.