



Paul Gray Esq  
Private Secretary to  
The Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1A 2AA

6286

2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

9 May 1988

*Jan Paul*

COMMUNITY CHARGE: REMAND PRISONERS

In the light of strong pressure during Standing Committee on the Local Government Finance Bill, my Secretary of State wrote to the Home Secretary and other Departments closely concerned proposing that the exemption should be widened to include those held on remand. He also proposed that fine defaulters and Mental Health Act detainees should be exempt, but that those held in custody for refusing to pay their community charge should remain subject to the community charge.

The Home Secretary and the Chief Secretary have agreed to these proposals, which have also been endorsed by other Departments with a close interest, with two reservations. The Scottish Secretary is concerned about exempting fine defaulters and the Welsh Secretary is concerned about not exempting community charge defaulters.

My Secretary of State remains firmly of the view that we should proceed as originally proposed. If the Prime Minister agrees, we shall bring forward appropriate amendments to the Local Government Finance Bill in the House of Lords.

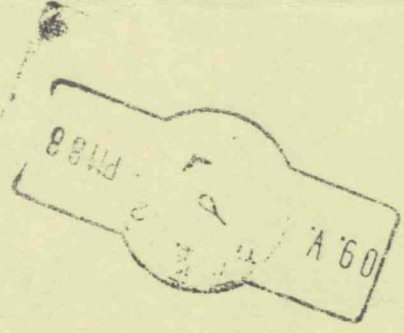
I am copying this letter to Private Secretaries of Members of E(LF), to Murdo Maclean and to Trevor Woolley.

*Jan Paul*

*Roger*

R BRIGHT  
Private Secretary

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