

CV86

Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel 01-270 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
01-270 0538 (Llinell Union)
Oddi wrth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru



WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-270 3000 (Switchboard)
01-270 0538 (Direct Line)
From The Secretary of State for Wales

Rt Hon Peter Walker MBE MP

CT/6091/88

9 June 1988

CONFIDENTIAL

Handwritten notes:
N.B. with N. Ridley
Report
P. 20
1/6

Dear Secretary of State

COMMUNITY CHARGE EXEMPTIONS

I have seen your minute ^{at floor} of 2 June to the Prime Minister about exemptions from the community charge.

I agree with your proposals about the treatment of rebates for the collective charge and for exempting volunteers. I am less happy about an exemption for those who sleep rough. This would put an enormous loophole into the system and would be abused. Moreover, it would act as an incentive to people to sleep rough simply to make sure that they escaped having to pay at least 20% of the charge. While I appreciate that in practice it is highly unlikely that local authorities would be able either to track down people who sleep rough or to get any payment of the charge from them, a specific exemption could be seen as encouraging them to sleep on the street rather than in a hostel. But I recognise the practical problems which we would have in getting this part of the Bill through Lords Report Stage intact and so I agree that we must make this concession also.

/ I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of E(LF), the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Whips in both Houses and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely

Keith Davies

Approved by the Secretary of State
and signed in his absence

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP
Secretary of State for the Environment

Local Gov't: Rates P. 10

