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The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP
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NBM
RCC
14/6

13 June 1988

Dear Malcolm

PROJECT 2000: STUDENT NURSES AND THE COMMUNITY CHARGE

Thank you for your letter of 7 June.

The question of student nurses and the community charge came up in Lords Committee on the Local Government Finance Bill on 6 June. Responding to the debate, Alexander Hosketh said

"assuming that the qualifying conditions concerning the supervised study and similar matters are met, student nurses will automatically become students for the purposes of the personal community charge" (Lords Hansard, column 1196)".

In view of John Moore's previous undertaking that student nurses would indeed become 'proper' students under Project 2000, I do not think we could have taken any other line. But we have done so in a way that indicates clearly that we are not stretching the definition of 'student' to cover student nurses; rather we are assuming that student nurses will automatically come within the student criteria when Project 2000 is implemented.

I think that matters now lie with colleagues responsible for the health departments to determine what accepting Project 2000 will mean in detail. In due course, it will be necessary to deal with the consequences so far as student status and the community charge is concerned; but I see this as being something that follows automatically from the detailed decisions that you, John Moore and Peter Walker will have taken.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, other members of E(LF), the Chief Whips in the Lords and Commons and to Sir Robin Butler.

Jones
Amra

NICHOLAS RIDLEY



LOCAL Gov't: Rates

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