

CONFIDENTIAL

CG/BG

cc SCOTTISH CBI
Speech folder



NBM
RCC
5/7

— file with Po

Prime Minister

**HARMONISATION OF RATING
ENGLAND/WALES AND SCOTLAND**

I have read with interest Nick Ridley's minute to you of 28 June.

I am of course content with the basis on which Nick suggests you should reply to Mr Tommy MacPherson of the ABCC.

As regards Nick's comments on the issues we all face after 1990, I very much agree with his approach. I should certainly like to take up his suggestion that my officials should prepare a paper developing ideas for joint consideration on the basis Nick has outlined.

There is considerable support in Scotland for the Government's objective of a uniform business rate throughout Britain that would eliminate barriers to competition and growth but there is great concern about the apparent slow progress being made. It will be important to obtain a firm statement of the Government's intentions in time for your address to the Scottish CBI in September.

I am copying this minute to recipients of Nick's minute.

MR

M R

Scottish Office
5 July 1988

05. VII 20 AM 88

6

LOCAL GOVT : Rating PT 10