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CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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Telephone 01-210 3000

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley, MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 3EB

*NBRM
to his desk.*

11 July 1988

*Rec'd
11/7*

Nicholas,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE BILL: LORDS AMENDMENTS

Your minute of 7 July to the Prime Minister sought the agreement of colleagues to a number of proposals you were making in relation to the final passage of the Local Government Finance Bill through the Lords.

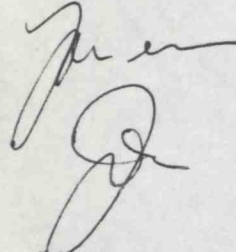
I have already written to you supporting your proposals regarding student nurses and the residents of very short stay hostels and night shelters.

I support your proposal that we should seek to have Lord Allen's amendment reversed on CCLA. Incorporating measures to implement his amendment within the Community Charge Benefit Scheme would require the introduction of very complex provisions to help some disabled and some very elderly people and these changes would seriously undermine the alignment of the scheme with other income related benefits. There would also be consequential increases in benefit and administration costs.

I would also support your proposed concession on rate relief for charities. The voluntary sector makes a particularly valuable contribution to the provision of personal social and some health services in many cases as the provider of specialist care which is not available elsewhere. I would therefore welcome an extension of mandatory relief to 75 per cent thus ensuring a more even treatment of charities across the country. In view however of our concern about initial levels of community charge I would urge that the cost of increasing mandatory relief is not passed onto the domestic chargepayer who will in any case be having to bear the cost of discretionary relief.

R.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'John Moore', written in a cursive style.

JOHN MOORE