



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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From the Secretary of State for Social Services

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

*REC  
27/7*

*26* July 1988

*Nicholas Ridley*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE BILL: LORDS CONSIDERATION OF COMMONS  
AMENDMENTS

Thank you for your letter of 26 July <sup>flap</sup> requesting comments on the draft speaking note for Malcolm Caithness to use if the Lords seek to reinstate Lord Allen's amendment. I share your concern to ensure that the Government is not defeated again on this point.

In general, I am content with the speaking note although my officials will be letting yours have a number of detailed drafting points. However, I must ask you to remove the last sentence of the penultimate paragraph which refers to specific areas where benefits for disabled people might be adjusted. I would not like this hostage to fortune to be given, and I do not think it is necessary since the previous sentence makes clear our commitment to keep the benefit arrangements under review.

I am also content for the last sentence of the preceding paragraph to be deleted as the Chief Secretary has suggested.

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

*John Moore*

JOHN MOORE

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