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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

21 September 1988

NRBM at this stage

REC 23/9

Dear Nicholas,

COMMUNITY CHARGE: STUDENT NURSES

stay
I have seen your letter to Malcolm Rifkind dated 8 September and I agree that, in all the circumstances, your Options i or ii are to be preferred.

Although these options are consistent with the line we have always taken, there will be very real disappointment amongst those in the Lords who voted for the amendment at Report Stage - including some 16 of our own supporters. We can therefore expect a rather acrimonious debate on the Regulations when they come to be approved.

Indeed, if it is the case that the timescale for the implementation of Project 2000 will be as long as 10 years, in view of what was said in the Lords debates in June, I think Option ii is preferred over Option i. At least Option ii holds out the prospect of further review once a majority of student nurses are on Project 2000 and this will go some way towards mollifying our critics.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Members of E(LF), the Chief Whips in both Houses and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely

BELSTEAD

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP

Local Gov. Rates APR 11

