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From The Secretary of State for Wales

Oddi wrth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru

The Rt Hon Peter Walker MBE MP

27 November 1987

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Lord President

WBM

RATES REFORM: LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE BILL

At L Committee on 2 December Nicholas Ridley and I will be presenting the draft of our Bill for introduction.

We are all agreed that it is important to get the Parliamentary process under way as soon as possible but I have to say that I am still very concerned that some items have not been included due to shortness of time and that some others will need subsequent amendment. This will certainly attract a great deal of criticism.

My particular concern for Wales is that counsel has not been able to take on board the qualification which needs to be made to the community charge reduction provisions to enable them to be applied to the different arrangements for Wales. While counsel has been aware of this requirement for some time, I appreciate that he has had a number of major changes to accommodate in a very compressed timescale and therefore has not had time to deal with this.

I should prefer not to have to introduce a controversial amendment to make the community charge reduction provisions apply to Wales. I should be grateful if this change to the drafting could be taken on board before the Bill is introduced.

/ I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Nicholas Ridley, Kenneth Baker, Malcolm Rifkind, Paul Channon, John Major, John Wakeham, David Waddington, First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely
A. Clement

Approved by the Secretary of State
and signed in his absence

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw CH MC MP
Lord President of the Council

