



Minister for Local Government

Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB

Telephone

*copy
(librarian)*

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Mr A Bearpark
APS/Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1

12 June 1989

Dear Andy

THE COMMUNITY CHARGE AND SECOND HOMES

Mr Gummer is writing to all Ministers about the manner in which they may be affected by the Community Charge, particularly as regards second homes.

The Prime Minister may find it useful to have the attached copy of Mr Gummer's letter.

yours

Trevor Beattie

TREVOR BEATTIE
PS/Mr Gummer



Minister for Local Government

Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB

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12 June 1989

THE COMMUNITY CHARGE AND SECOND HOMES

I thought you might like a short note on the way you may be affected by the community charge, particularly as regards second homes.

If you have one home you will pay the personal community charge there. Those with more than one home will pay the personal community charge at their main home and will then pay a standard community charge where they have another home, provided that no-one uses that other residence as their main home.

It is not up to individuals to decide which of their residences is their main one. That is the responsibility of the Community Charges Registration Officer (CCRO). Ministers will wish to provide the CCRO with the information that will be necessary for this decision to be properly made. I am therefore recommending that you write a note which expresses clearly your particular circumstances and send it to the CCROs concerned so they will be able to decide properly your liability for the community charge.

Ministers are, of course, in the same position as all other Members of Parliament, except that the nature of Ministerial responsibilities may make it more likely that their London address will be held to be their main home. Even so, Ministers' personal situations will vary considerably. There will be some whose wives are clearly resident at the constituency home where their children go to school and who only visit London from time to time. They themselves, however, may come to London on Sunday nights and spend most of the week here except for holiday periods. Others will



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have grown-up children or elderly relatives living at one or other of their homes. Whatever the circumstances the important fact is that it is the CCRO who makes the decision, not the Minister. That means that when registration is complete not all Ministers will find themselves in precisely the same position.

If you have any concerns and would like a word with me do please telephone my office on 276 3190.

JOHN SELWYN GUMMER

Definitions

Personal Community Charge - The usual Community Charge levied by local councils.

Standard Community Charge - The charge levied on second homes which can be up to twice the personal community charge. This is not affected by the number of people using the house as a second home. However if anyone is registered at an address for the personal community charge, no standard community charge is payable.

CCRO - Community Charge Registration Officer - the local official responsible for producing and updating the community charge register.



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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

9 June 1989

COMMUNITY CHARGE: PENDLE

Mr. John Lee, M.P., is coming to see the Prime Minister on Thursday 22 June to discuss the impact of the community charge on his Pendle constituency.

Please could you provide a brief on the issues as they relate to Pendle. For the general background we will be able to draw on the briefing for the E(LF) meeting earlier in the day. Please could this reach me by Tuesday 20 June.

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(ANDREW TURNBULL)

Trevor Beattie, Esq.,
Office of the Minister for Local Government,
Department of the Environment.

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