



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG  
DI-270 3000

Yes  
not

Prime Minister ✓  
Content to welcome:

- (i) The success of the February transitional package?
- (ii) The good progress of the revaluation?
- (iii) The work of the staff?

Rec 6  
23/9

PRIME MINISTER

**RATING APPEALS AND THE 1990 RATING REVALUATION**

You asked for a report on progress for the 1990 rating revaluation, in view of the shortage of professional staff in the Valuation Office (VO) and the action that we took in February to curtail the number of rating appeals being made against the present system (your Private Secretary's letter of 8 February to Nick Ridley's Private Secretary).

Leap Party

**Background**

2. As you will recall, earlier this year we were very concerned at the possible effects that the shortage of professional staff in the VO might have on progress with the 1990 revaluation of non-domestic property. We decided then that steps needed to be taken to reduce the number of appeals against the existing rating system, to keep the VO's workload down to a manageable level.

3. Nick Ridley therefore announced on 15 February that any new appeals made by ratepayers after 14 February would not be taken into account in the operation of the transitional arrangements which will phase in the effects of the revaluation and the move to a Uniform Business Rate.

4. These transitional arrangements will, as you may recall, protect businesses from the effects of rises in their rate bills on the change from the old to the new system. We had been



concerned that, when they were announced, there might be a surge in the number of appeals against existing rateable values, as businesses tried to ensure that the base from which the transitional protection applied to their properties was as low as possible. If this had happened it might have caused serious problems for the VO in completing the 1990 revaluation.

### Results

5. The action that we took has been effective. There has been no surge in appeals as we had feared. Indeed, the number of appeals that the VO has had to deal with so far this year, and in 1988-89, has proved to be quite manageable.

### Progress with the Revaluation

6. The revaluation has proceeded satisfactorily and is now substantially complete. The latest monitoring reports shows the completion of 81 per cent of the entire task.

7. The VO is also satisfied that the work done has generally been of good quality. The target date for completion of the whole task is mid-November and the VO is confident that this will be met. The new lists will be deposited with Local Authorities, for public inspection, by the end of December.

### Conclusion

8. In conclusion, despite difficult circumstances, progress with the revaluation is proceeding relatively smoothly, thanks in part to the success of the transitional arrangements announced earlier this year, but above all to the dedication and hard work of the Valuation Office's staff.



9. I am copying this minute to Peter Walker, Malcolm Rifkind and Chris Patten.

*Duncan Sparkes*

p.p. [N.L.]

22 September 1989

[Approved by the Chancellor  
of signed in his absence abroad]

LOCAL GOVT: Rates Part 14



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