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a: lppsl/patten  
MRM

10 DOWNING STREET  
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THE PRIME MINISTER

22 January 1990

Dear Chris,

I enclose a formal minute to you as Secretary of State expressing my appreciation for the work of officials in your Department. Please could you see that it is conveyed to those concerned.

May I also take this opportunity to thank you and David Hunt for the superb way in which you put across the Government's case on the Community Charge. The courtesy and patience you have shown in hearing representations from colleagues and the skill with which you have put the counter arguments have won admiration from all sides, including from those who in the end were not able to support the Government. To win the vote by a wider margin than two years ago was highly satisfactory in the circumstances. It was one of those occasions when the outcome on the day was influenced by the debate in the House. The fine speeches you and David made in opening and winding up played an important part.

A great deal of credit, of course, must also go to the Whips who put together a superbly organised operation. On an issue generating such strongly held feelings, they did marvellously well to hold the Party together. I am extremely grateful to them.

I am copying this letter to David Hunt and to Tim Renton.

Yours ever  
Margaret

The. Rt. Hon. Chris Patten, M.P.

PERSONAL

MRM