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file c. questions

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

28 February 1990

QUESTIONS BRIEFING ON THE COMMUNITY CHARGE

We spoke yesterday about some "standard" briefing on the community charge which would minimise our demands on you on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (though as you will recognise, will not eliminate them).

The sort of information I had in mind was an expansion of that attached to your Secretary of State's very helpful minute of 20 February. It may not be possible to provide all of the following but the figures we would find it useful to have for each county borough and district are:

1. The controlling party (and where there is no overall control, the coalition which acts as controlling party).
2. The charge per head (I recognise that for counties they merely set the precept and that it is an implied charge per head).
3. The amount per head received/contributed in safety net and special grants such as the Pendle and London formulae.
4. fs per head over or under the individual SSA.
5. Percentage increase in budgeted spending for 1990/91 over 1989/90.
6. Percentage increase in AEF over 1989/90 equivalent.
7. Percentage increase in SSA over 1989/90 equivalent.
8. Rate comparison.
9. Any other comments on the effects of the budget set, for example the percentage increase such a budget would imply in education spending relative to the previous year's budget. Any other such useful points related to the authorities front line services.

I appreciate that such a set of information is quite a tall order and that any such table will need to be expanded and updated as councils set their budget and as the rate comparison becomes available but I think it would be useful to have it this way rather than peicemeal.

Dominic Morris

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Department of the Environment.