

CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A2AT

M. B. ...

ack.

28 March 1990

Dear Chris,

*PAIG
28/3*

**HOLIDAY CARAVANS:
STANDARD COMMUNITY CHARGE AND BUSINESS RATES**

- with PG?

I have seen a copy of your letter to Geoffrey Howe of 27 March seeking agreement to introduce legislation to put right a problem which has arisen over the treatment of holiday caravans for the purpose of the community charge and business rates.

Needless to say, I am reluctant to add another, potentially controversial Bill to this Session's heavy legislative programme but if there is no alternative to proceeding in the way you propose then of course I would not stand in the way. It will be essential, however, for the terms of the Bill to be drawn up as tightly as possible to avoid the inclusion of additional provisions during its House of Lords stages when "relevance" rather than "scope" regulates the matters which can be discussed. I am thinking particularly of the potential to include in the Bill further groups who consider themselves to have been unfairly treated in the imposition of the community charge: village shop owners, for example.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Geoffrey Howe, to other members of QL, to Norman Lamont, Michael Howard, Malcolm Rifkind, Peter Walker and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely
[Signature]

BELSTEAD

The Rt Hon Christopher Patten, MP