



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

17 July 1990

*From the Private Secretary**Dear Phillip,*

ORAL STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY CHARGE REVIEW AND RSG SETTLEMENT
FOR ENGLAND 1991-92

Thank you for your letter of 15 July covering the draft oral statement which your Secretary of State is proposing to make on Thursday 19 July.

The Prime Minister would be grateful if the statement could be revised in the light of the following comments and proposed drafting amendments.

- (i) While she appreciates the wide content of the statement, she would be most grateful if further effort could be made to make the whole statement shorter, clearer and crisper.
- (ii) At the end of paragraph 6, there should be a trailing reference to the need for appropriate capping arrangements so as to ensure that the benefit of higher exchequer support passes to chargepayers rather than allowing excessive increases in local authority spending.
- (iii) The critical paragraph 11 needs to be restructured. The last sentence is crucial and should come earlier in the paragraph. The phrase 'designation criteria' will need to be explained. There should also be an opening sentence which makes clear that local authorities should be aiming to spend at SSA or below.
- (iv) The opening sentence on paragraph 16 is unclear: what will the maximum standard charge be reduced to?

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of E(IG), to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office) and to Michael Carpenter (Attorney General's Office).

*Yours ever,
Barry*

BARRY H. POTTER

Phillip Ward, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.