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10 DOWNING STREET  
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*From the Private Secretary*

15 November 1990

*Dear Phillip,*

**COMMUNITY CHARGE: STUDENT GAP**

Thank you for your further letter of 12 November indicating your Secretary of State's firm opposition to a short bill, in this Parliamentary session, to remove the so-called student gap - that is the short period between leaving school and starting university or college, when a student is liable for the full community charge.

The Prime Minister has also noted that other colleagues do not consider this a priority item; moreover there are difficulties in proceeding by way of a Private Members' Bill.

The Prime Minister is content not to pursue further at this time the idea of legislation to resolve the student gap problem.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to other members of E(LG) and to the Lord President.

*Yours ever,  
Barry*

(BARRY H. POTTER)

Phillip Ward, Esq.,  
Department of the Environment.