



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

9 December 1986

My dear Willie:

NBRN

"PAYING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT" - RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

I have seen a copy of Nicholas Ridley's letter to you dated 3rd December, enclosing the draft of a paper to include a detailed statement setting out proposals for the operation of the community charge in England and Wales.

I am content that the proposals for England and Wales should be made public in the form suggested subject to the reflection of the agreement now reached between my officials and those in the Department of the Environment on the terms of paragraph 23 of the detailed statement; I think also that the reference to a "fine" in line 8 of paragraph 22 of that document should be amended to refer to a "penalty" to emphasise that we are now talking about civil, rather than criminal, matters.

It has now become clear that there will be significant workload implications for the High Court as well as implications for legal aid and my officials have already been in touch with officials in the Department of the Environment with an estimate of what is involved. I am content to leave the detailed discussions to officials at this stage but my acceptance of what is proposed is on the understanding that I will need extra resources to cover these matters.

I am copying this letter to Nicholas Ridley, other members of E(LF) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yrs:

The Right Honourable
The Viscount Whitelaw, CH, MC
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
London SW1

LOCAL GOV'T: Rating reevaluation: Pt 5.

