

Chairman: Sir James Goid CA FCIQB

Deputy Chairman: Dr Alistair Smith CBE
Vice-Chairmen: Ian Lang MP
Mrs Jean Chalmers CBE

Director: William R Henderson TD
Deputy Directors: Robert M Balfour
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Scottish Conservative Party

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JDG/MER

18th March, 1985

Rt. Hon Michael Alison, M.P.
10 Downing Street,
London SW1.

Am

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 8th March 1985 regarding Rating and Revaluation in Scotland.

While the statement in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for Scotland announcing a 3p increase in domestic rate relief was welcome and we are making the most of it, it has done little to stem the flow of critical hostility towards the Party.

As an example of what is happening I enclose the front page of yesterday's Sunday Post, a letter from Councillor William Aitken, past leader of the Conservative Group on Glasgow District Council and a few other sample letters, all of which have been acknowledged. As I say, these are merely samples of constant adverse press and media publicity and hundreds of letters from domestic and commercial rate payers. Even industry is mainly critical - the few gainers seem to keep silent!

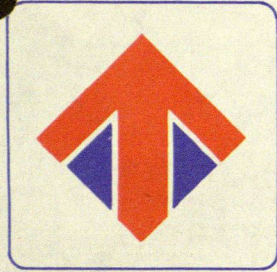
I hope we can soon find the breakthrough on a system of financing local government. Meanwhile we shall do what we can.

Best wishes

Yours ever,

J

Enc.



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JDG/MER

12th March 1985

The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for responding so positively to my pleas to do something for the hard pressed domestic ratepayers in Scotland.

Politically it is most unfortunate that revaluation ever went ahead but we now have to make the best of a difficult situation and we shall build on the additional domestic rate relief announced last week.

This whole issue has highlighted again the need to try to find a better alternative to our outdated system of financing local government which is placing such an unfair and excessive burden on ratepayers. We are working hard on this in Scotland and I hope that we will be able to deal with it constructively at our conference in May.

Kindest regards.

Yours ever,

James Goold

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