



*Prime Minister 2*

*A pity, but nothing  
to be done I'm afraid.*

*DEN*

*18/2*

*~~NRB/PA~~*

2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-212 3434

My ref: B/PSO/11040/86

Your ref:

13 February 1986

*Ken Walker*

*mf*

"PAYING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT"

Shortly before the Green Paper was published, it was agreed that there should be a common consultation date of 31 July for the proposals in England, Scotland and Wales (same for those on capital expenditure). However, as your private secretary's letter of 21 January to David Norgrove records, we also agreed that I should be free to announce an extension if this proved necessary.

*WITH DEN?*

I was pressed by the local authority associations in the morning of publication of the Green Papers to agree to an extension of the consultation period, and I briefly referred to my willingness to do so in exchanges on my statement. I have now been asked by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities to announce a formal extension of the consultation period. In reply, I am today writing to all the local authority association leaders, telling them that I am willing to extend the consultation period to 1 October, on the understanding that this is necessary to allow detailed responses to be formulated. I am also making the point, however, that the earlier we can have those responses, the better it will be.

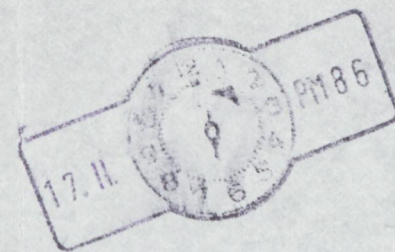
I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to other members of E(LF) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Ken Walker*

*Ken Walker*

KENNETH BAKER







010

CCBG

pa



P 01888

CONFIDENTIAL

MR NORGEORVE

Local Government Finance Green Paper

with [unclear]

We discussed briefly on the telephone the draft statement by the Environment Secretary attached to Mr Young's letter of 24 January. There are two points that I think you might wish to take up.

2. First, the language in paragraph 23 seems to me to expose the losers and gainers in rather unfortunate terms. It seems unnecessary to volunteer the loss effects quite so openly. I would suggest:

x/

"Under our proposals some people would be paying local taxes who presently pay nothing. But those living on their own who presently pay more than their fair share, including a very large proportion of the poorest households, will be better off."

y/

3. On the period of consultation, I do not see that it is necessary to concede at the outset that consultation in England and Wales may go beyond 31 July. You may wish to say that the Prime Minister would prefer this to emerge in debate, or in separate discussion if the Secretary of State is questioned, and for the references in paragraph 28 of the draft statement to be deleted.

Note for the record,

LY accepted x & y

(y subject to agreement of others, but would come back if difficulties).

Understood to endorse the Policy Unit proposal.

J B UNWIN

DRW

27/1

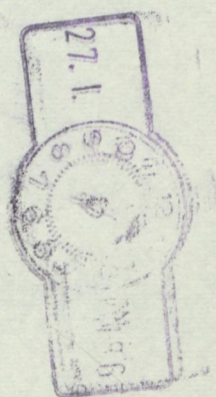
27 January 1986  
Cabinet Office

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LOCAL GOVT  
RATES  
PT 4

COMMISSIONER





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PRIME MINISTER

RATES GREEN PAPER

England and Wales have agreed on 1 October as the closing date for consultation. Scotland is sticking on 30 June.

The Green Paper goes to bed on Monday night.

If the consultation periods remain different, it will, as Cabinet recognised, make a nonsense of the months of consultation in England and Wales after Scotland has closed.

The Department of the Environment say the extra time is needed to allow Department of Environment Ministers more opportunities to persuade. I guess they fear they might also be pushed into legislating in the 1986/87 session if consultation closes before the summer, though I have no evidence of this.

If they were both to close on, say 31 July, a delay in legislation for England and Wales beyond 1986/87 could be justified by referring to the greater complexity of the position in England and Wales.

Agree that the Lord President should be invited to bring the three Ministers together urgently on Monday to try to reach agreement?

*If possible - yes. not*

However, agree also that if he fails, they should be allowed to go ahead with different consultation periods?

If there are different consultation periods, that would again have to be justified by reference to the greater complexity and scale of England and Wales.

*Marti Sames (Duty Clerk)*

*PP. DN*

17 January, 1986.

JD75

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CBG



2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

17 January 1986

NR017

Dear David,

RATES GREEN PAPER

We spoke this morning about my letter of 16 January to Robert Gordon on this subject.

First, may I correct a rather important error in that letter. I said that comments on the proposals for England and Wales will be sought by 31 October this year. I should have said 1 October. That was of course the date previously mentioned and I hope that typing error did not confuse anybody.

The date of 1 October was subject to agreement with the Secretary of State for Wales. I can now confirm that his office have told me that although he would still prefer an earlier date, he is content to join us with 1 October.

I am copying this letter to the private secretaries of other members of E(LF) and Michael Stark in Sir Robert Armstrong's office.

Yours sincerely,

R U Y

R U YOUNG  
Private Secretary



LOCAL GOVT: Rating reevaluation: P4

SECRETARY GENERAL  
LORDS OF THE  
TREASURY

