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The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
2 Marsham St
London SW1

19 April 1988

Jim Mid.

EDUCATION REFORM BILL: ADVANCED FURTHER EDUCATION POOLING

I am writing to let you know of a small addition I am intending to make to the Education Reform Bill to validate determinations I have made of contributions to the AFE pools for 1987-88.

Pooling is a means of sharing the cost of AFE between local education authorities, and is given effect by your Department through adjustments to authorities' block grant entitlements. My Department calculates the contribution of each authority to the pools using a formula based on student numbers laid down in regulations. The method of counting students for this purpose was agreed with the local authority associations some time ago, but it has now come to light that in one minor respect - the treatment of students on short part-time courses - it is not fully consistent with the regulations. For 1988-89 I propose to amend the regulations to allow me to adopt the agreed method. The same method was, however, used in 1987-88, for which adjustments have already been made and it is not possible to amend the regulations retrospectively.

No authority has challenged my determinations for 1987-88, and I see no reason to expect a challenge, or to amend the determinations already made. Nevertheless I am advised that it would be prudent to include a short validating provision in the Education Reform Bill. I therefore propose a small addition to the Bill for this purpose.

I am copying this letter to members of E(EP).

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cc 8/0p

1/1/2 (10 and NC1)

GRANT MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

SCHOOL BOARDS (SCOTLAND) BILL

HOUSE OF COMMONS - FIRST SCOTTISH STANDING COMMITTEE

NOTE ON AMENDMENT

Mr Allan Stewart

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Clause 1, page 1, line 2, at end insert -

'(c) Any functions delegated to them by the Secretary of State in exercising his powers under sections 73 to 75 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 and under this Act.'

Mr Allan Stewart

NC1

To move the following Clause:-

(1) The Secretary of State may provide for the establishment of grant-maintained schools, subject to the provisions of this section, and financed under section 73 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980.

(2) The Secretary of State shall arrange for a secret postal ballot to be held on the question of whether grant-maintained status should be sought where he receives a written request for such a ballot from a number of parents of registered pupils at the school equal to at least 20 per cent of the number of registered pupils at the school on the date on which the request is received.

(3) The Secretary of State may ask the School Board to conduct the ballot, or make such other arrangements as he considers appropriate.

(4) Where the result of a ballot held in accordance with subsection (2) above shows a simple majority in favour of seeking grant-maintained status for the school, the Secretary of State shall publish a draft instrument in accordance with which the school is to be governed (to be known as the articles of government).

(5) After consultation with the education authority, the articles of government of the school shall be made by order of the Secretary of State. The articles will provide for the constitution of a board of management for the grant-maintained school.

(6) On an incorporation date determined by the Secretary of State in relation to a grant-maintained school, the property rights and liabilities of the education authority formerly responsible for the school shall be transferred to, and by virtue of this Act next in, the board of management of the grant-maintained school.'