



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY  
Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY  
Telephone 01-407 5522

*From the Secretary of State for Social Services*

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 3EB

6 November 1986

*Dear Nick*

*NBR*

**"PAYING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT": SUGGESTED EXEMPTIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY CHARGE FOR RESIDENTS OF "HOMES" AND HOSTELS**

Thank you for your letter of 29 October about the question of exclusion of residential care homes, nursing homes and hostels from the community charge provisions.

I note your concern about making concessions at this point. While it is too early for me to come forward with formal proposals at this stage, there are - as your letter clearly acknowledges - problems with the application of the community charge in this area. I would therefore strongly urge that we keep all options open. We shall need to explore the practical, political and benefit implications of the various options and we shall want to consider carefully the boundary between non-domestic rating and the community charge sectors. On the basis that what you propose would not exclude such consideration, I am content that you should proceed as indicated.

I am copying this to members of E(LF) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Norman Fowler*

NORMAN FOWLER

LOCAL GOVT: Rating Pt 15.