



C.B.G.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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From the Secretary of State for Social Services

The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind QC MP
Secretary of State for Scotland
Scottish Office
Dover House
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AU

7 November 1986

Dear Malcolm,

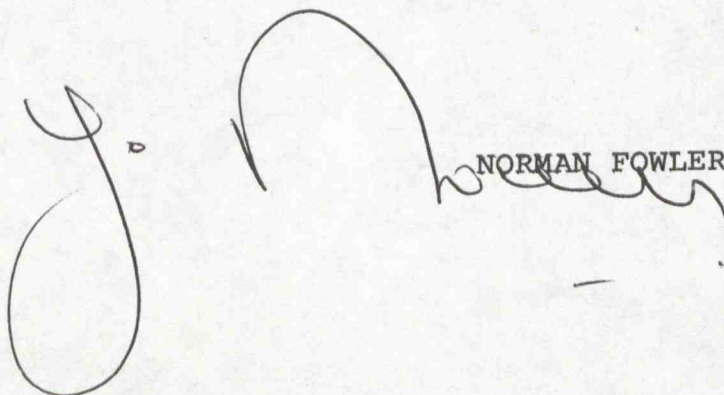
NBFM

ABOLITION OF DOMESTIC RATES ETC (SCOTLAND) BILL:
TREATMENT OF WATER CHARGES

Your letter of 23 October seeks approval for provision in the Bill relating to water and sewerage charges.

I have no objection to what is proposed provided that it is clear that the water community charge is not eligible for rebate under the community charge rebate system. Support for water charges will be absorbed in the basic personal rates of the new income support structure from 1 April 1988. These rates are the starting point for assessing housing benefit so there would be unjustified double provision if water charges were separately eligible for rebate.

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


NORMAN FOWLER

LOCAL GOVT: Rating reevaluation: PLS.

