



COBG

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

26 November 1986

Dear Malcolm

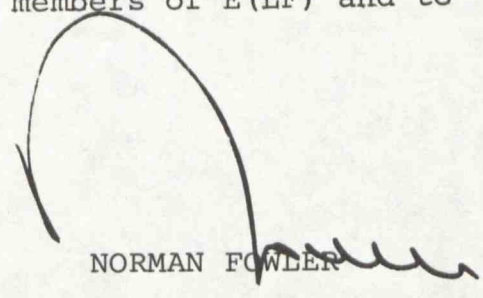
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ABOLITION OF DOMESTIC RATES ETC (SCOTLAND) BILL COMMUNITY CHARGE  
REGISTRATION: EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

In your letter of 7 November to Willie Whitelaw, you proposed that social security records should be made available for the provision of information in connection with community charge registration. I am sorry not to have responded earlier. However, I understand that this does not form part of the Bill and it is therefore not too late for comments.

I can see considerable problems about your proposal. My Local Offices will be very heavily engaged next year and in 1988 in implementing the social security reforms. We must not add anything to their task which would put the successful launch of the reforms at risk. I believe that the proposal that we should supply information to help set up the community charge register could do this. It would cause a considerable amount of extra work for my Local Offices: they are not computerised at present and lists of names and addresses would have to be specially prepared for registration purposes. I am not clear how much our records could in any event add to that which would be available from other sources. I therefore am not able at this stage to support the proposal.

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

Yours  
  
NORMAN FOWLER



LOCAL GOVT  
RATES  
PSS