

cc 3/5



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From The Secretary of State for Wales

The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP

December 1986

Jan Willie

NBM

E(LF): COMMUNITY CHARGE - APPEALS

I have seen Nicholas Ridley's letter to you, and attached paper, of 24 October; Quentin Hailsham's of 6 November and Douglas Hurd's of 10 November. *at the*

I agree that this work should be handled by expanded Local Valuation courts; I endorse Nicholas' conclusions including the warning that increases in DOE and Welsh Office votes will be needed to cover the additional costs.

Clearly the operational details including staffing levels will need further consideration in due course. There may be merit, for example, in awarding contracts to local solicitors to act as clerks on a part time basis.

Douglas also raises a question about whether attachment of earnings orders are a viable means of enforcement. The technical issues are still being considered at official level, but I am quite clear that we do need to have attachment of earnings, or some very near equivalent, available. Otherwise there will be no real means of enforcement against those, for example adult offspring living at home, who although earning a wage have no personal possessions.

✓ Copies go to members of E(LF), the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Advocate and Sir Robert Armstrong.

John C...

Ned

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LOCAL GOVT Rating PTS

