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*From the Private Secretary*

8 December 1986

**PAYING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT - RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION**

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's letter of 3 December to the Lord President proposing to publish a detailed statement setting out how the community charge will work in England and Wales.

The Prime Minister is not convinced that it would be right to aim to publish a document before Christmas. She is concerned that when the Government does publish a document it should be complete, and the proposals detailed and fully worked through: they should leave no loose ends for critics to pull on. There are however still some practical points to be worked out on the proposals, and the draft deals only briefly with the new grant system and the uniform business rate, where there are also still decisions to be taken. The Prime Minister does not therefore believe we are yet ready to publish a document.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of E(LF), Richard Stoate (Lord Chancellor's Office) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

DAVID NORGROVE

Robin Young, Esq.,  
Department of the Environment.

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