

CCBG



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5A.

We still await revised draft

Andy Bearpark Esq  
Private Secretary to  
The Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
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103  
4/2

4 February 1987

Dew Andy

COMMUNITY CHARGE: HELP FOR THOSE ON LOW INCOMES

WITH PAB?

My Secretary of State has seen Robin Young's letter of 30 January to you. He strongly supports Mr Ridley's proposal to give a clear commitment to the introduction of a community charge rebate scheme in England and Wales.

It is already clear from comment and discussion on the Abolition of Domestic Rates Etc (Scotland) Bill, both in Parliament and outside, that the provision of rebates is an essential element of the package. The fact that there will be a rebate scheme has been an important part of the defence of the Bill's provisions in Committee. Many of those who support the Government's proposals, including influential ratepayers' groups in Scotland, have stressed the need for proper rebates. And it would be very damaging if the lack of a clear-cut and positive reply to Councillor Layden's letter were, directly or indirectly, to cast doubt on the commitment to a rebate scheme in Scotland.

Mr Rifkind would therefore advise the Prime Minister to write to Councillor Layden on the lines proposed.

I am copying this to Robin Young and the recipients of his letter.

Yours ever  
Robert

ROBERT GORDON  
Private Secretary

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