

CCBG



Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG  
GWYDYR HOUSE  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER  
Tel. 01-270 3000 (Switsfwrdd)  
01-270 0538(Llinell Union)

WELSH OFFICE  
GWYDYR HOUSE  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER  
Tel. 01-270 3000 (Switchboard)  
01-270 0538 (Direct Line)

Oddi wrth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru

The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP

From The Secretary of State for Wales

18 February 1987

*De Willie*

*NBM.*

ABOLITION OF DOMESTIC RATES ETC (SCOTLAND) BILL:  
RATING OF SPORTS CLUBS

I have seen Malcolm's letter of 12 February to E(LF) members. While I fully appreciate the pressure he is under, I am afraid I cannot support his proposal that mandatory rate relief should extend to sports clubs.

This is not the time to admit particular exemptions to the general rules we are seeking to introduce to local government finance. There will undoubtedly be many attempts by a wide range of organisations to secure special treatment as we proceed with our plans and we will face very difficult decisions in resisting them. Treating sports clubs in Scotland in the way Malcolm suggests would set a very awkward precedent both in Scotland and south of the border, and would weaken our position in dealing with representations from other organisations who we know are watching developments very carefully. In moving ahead we would be wise to maintain the line that in cases of this nature it is local and not central government who are best placed to decide when and when not to grant relief under existing powers.

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

*✓* → *eva*  
*Alex*

The Rt Hon the Viscount Whitelaw PC CH MP  
Lord President of the Council  
Privy Council Offices  
Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2AT

LOCAL  
GOVT  
RATES

