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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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From the Minister of State for Social Security and the Disabled

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CH MC Lord President of the Council Privy Council Office Whitehall LONDON SWIA 2AT

MG MAR 1987

Lear Willie,

NBAN

COMMUNITY CHARGE: MARRIED AND UNMARRIED COUPLES

Nicholas Ridley copied to Norman Fowler his letter to you of 27 February.

I am content with the proposals set out in the note by officials, though I would oppose making a couple jointly and severally liable for community charge arrears incurred before they started living together; retrospective liability would be inconsistent with social security practice.

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

JOHN MAJOR

LOCAL GOVT: Raling PTG

