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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SWIA 2AT

20 March 1987

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COMMUNITY CHARGE: MARRIED AND UNMARRIED COUPLES

Thank you for your letter of 27 February. I have also seen a letter of the same date from Malcolm Ridkind, one of 9 March from Quintin Hailsham, one of 10 March from Nick Edwards, one of 12 March from Norman Tebbit, and one of 16 March from John Major.

I think you can take it that you have E(LF)'s approval for your proposals, except on the question of liability for debts incurred before a couple started to live together. No doubt you will want to consider what colleagues have said about this, and write again in due course.

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I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, the members of $\mathsf{E}(\mathsf{LF})$ and Sir Robert Armstrong.

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP

LOCAL GOST 23. III. (9) 4 3 PM 8 7 RATES