

PROFESSOR GRIFFITHS

11 September 1987

cc MR STREDDER

MR NORGROVE ✓

CBI: LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

I had a call from John Banham at the CBI earlier this week. He said that the CBI now had what he thought were some very useful and practical suggestions to make on how the operation of the business rate and community charge could be implemented in a way that increased their impact in increasing the accountability of local Government. In view of the sensitivity of this area, he did not propose to pursue their suggestions in public debate - as the IOD have - but preferred to feed them in privately. Assuming they are agreed by the CBI council next week, he will therefore put them formally to Michael Howard and will also ensure that we receive a copy.

I said that while the framework and principles were clearly no longer open for discussion, we would welcome any constructive ideas that might enhance the end objective of greater accountability. A private rather than a public dialogue would also be more constructive.

*Nancy Greenwood*

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