

R Wilson

Original returned to
Wilson 11.11.87 R

I am sure the
Prime Minister would be
very happy to take an
E(LF) or an ad hoc
meeting.

CONFIDENTIAL

P 02916

From: R T J Wilson
11 November 1987

ORW
11/11.

MR NORGROVE

cc Mr Langdon

RATES REFORM BILL

1. You will have seen a copy of a letter dated 9 November from the Environment Secretary to the Defence Secretary suggesting that E(LF) should be convened to settle a disagreement between them about the treatment of service personnel for community charge purposes.
2. It seems to us that it would not be a justifiable call on the Prime Minister's time to ask her to chair a meeting of E(LF) for this purpose.
3. We understand from Department of the Environment officials that there are a number of outstanding points which need to be resolved on their Bill and that they are considering whether these points could constitute a full agenda for E(LF), chaired by the Lord President. If so, we would propose to ask the Lord President whether he would be prepared to take this on, provided that the Prime Minister was content. Alternatively, if there are not enough items to justify a full meeting of E(LF) we would suggest to the Lord President that he chair a small group of the Ministers most closely concerned to settle the issue about service personnel.
4. I would be grateful to know if you are content for us to proceed accordingly.

RTJW

R T J WILSON

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cc: JG -



CONFIDENTIAL

P 02918

From: R T J Wilson

11 November 1987

pa -

MR NORGROVE

cc Mr Langdon

COMMUNITY CHARGE

1. This is just to confirm that I am convening a meeting of officials from the Treasury and the DOE tomorrow with the aim of producing an agreed paper which

a. states succinctly the two main options now before Ministers on the transition to the community charge: the July decisions with a £75 safety net and Mr Ridley's latest proposals with dual running confined to those areas where spending is more than £130 per head above GRE as shown in their 1987-88 budgets;

and b. sets out in an annex sufficient figures and examples to enable Ministers to take a final decision.

2. I will let you have this paper on Friday so that you can circulate it before the weekend to a small group of Ministers who could then meet early next week to reach a decision as agreed at E(LF) this afternoon. I suggest that possible invitees might be the Lord President, the Chancellor, the Environment Secretary, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Secretary and Mr Howard (and possibly the Chief Whip?).

RJW

R T J WILSON

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