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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 3EB

NRM

30<sup>th</sup> November 1987

Dear Nick,

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE BILL: FEES AND CHARGES**

I understand that the draft Bill (prepared for introduction before Christmas) does not include the provision extending local authorities' power to introduce fees and charges.

E(LF) decided in February that this primary legislation should be sought. It is very disappointing and puzzling to learn that it is not yet ready. I am even more concerned to learn that there is a risk that it may not be possible to introduce the necessary provisions during the passage of the Bill. I am sure you will be concerned at this, not least since greater use of fees and charges reduce the burden on local taxpayers and reduce public expenditure. We estimate that greater use of fees and charges could save around £50 - £100 million. I hope therefore that you can take the necessary steps to ensure that E(LF)'s decision is implemented as planned.

I am copying this letter to members of E(LF), First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Your Eyes,  
John

JOHN MAJOR