



ce Bly
SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

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

10 December 1987

Dear Nicholas,

RBH

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE BILL: SCOTTISH PROVISIONS

Thank you for your letter of 2 December about the proposed transitional provisions for the 1990 revaluation in Scotland. *Will obtain if requested.*

As you rightly say, it is a matter of prudence for me to take power to mitigate the effects of extreme increases in rateable value in Scotland. I expect that, because of our more recent revaluations in Scotland, absolute increases in Scottish rateable values in 1990 should be very much smaller than in England and Wales. But the effect of the revaluation on the individual ratepayer's bill will depend on how his increase in rateable value compares with the average increase. The lower absolute scale of the Scottish revaluation will not, therefore, necessarily prevent individual Scottish ratepayers from having as much need for protection as their counterparts in England and Wales and the details of any scheme for Scotland must be constructed to fit the Scottish situation. My intention is that the level of protection given will accord as closely as possible with that given in England and Wales. I would expect that to be achieved by setting a threshold for entitlement to protection at a similar level of increase in rateable value relative to the Scottish average as will be applicable relative to the average south of the Border.

I am copying this letter to all members of E(LF), the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,
Malcolm Rikfind

MALCOLM RIKFIND

