

SWYDDFA GYMREIG

GWYDYR HOUSE

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER

Tel. 01-270 3000 (Switsfwrdd)  
01-270 0538 (Llinell Union)

Oddi wrth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru



NBBM

Rec 6

17/2

WELSH OFFICE

GWYDYR HOUSE

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER

Tel. 01-270 3000 (Switchboard)  
01-270 0538 (Direct Line)

From The Secretary of State for Wales

The Rt Hon Peter Walker MBE MP

CT/6020/88

17 February 1988

*As noted*

**STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY CHARGE**

I have seen your letter of 22 January <sup>1988</sup> to Kenneth Baker, and also Kenneth's and Malcolm Rifkind's replies of 5 and 4 February.

I am content with your proposal to require educational establishments to give the registration officer a list of students on full-time courses and their addresses, where known, at the start of each academic year, and to respond to requests for information at other times. This seems to be equivalent to the duty imposed on the responsible person at each address, except that colleges will not be required to notify any change of address of their students. In view of the difficulty of keeping track of the addresses of students in lodgings, I am sure that this is the right approach.

I do, however, see the force of Malcolm and Kenneth's arguments over the payment of the charge in 3 instalments. I do not think we want to imply that students are more likely than other groups to attempt to evade their liability, and nor should we leave them as the only group without freedom to alter their payment schedule, in consultation with the local authority, to suit their circumstances. Those wholly dependent on grant may well find it more convenient to pay at the time their cheque arrives, but many who depend wholly or in part on parental contribution may receive a monthly income, and find the 6 month instalment in particular a serious financial burden.

These arrangements would, of course, be made in regulations. I would need to consider the matter very carefully before implementing this particular proposal in Wales.

.... I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord President, Members of E(LF), David Waddington and Sir Robin Butler.

*[Handwritten signature]*

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley, MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment

LOCAL GOVT : Zabing PTA.

