

CONFIDENTIAL

COBA



OFFICE OF ARTS AND LIBRARIES
Horse Guards Road
London SW1P 3AL
Telephone 01-270 5929

From the Minister for the Arts

NBPM

C88/1962

REC6

13/4

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1 3EB

11 April 1988

Dear Nicholas,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE: FEES AND CHARGES

I have seen a copy of your letter of 28 March to the Chief Secretary recommending that the provisions to widen the charging powers of local authorities should not be introduced into the Local Government Finance Bill.

P134 - will be

As you know, I published my Green Paper "Financing our Public Library Service" on the assumption that the necessary enabling legislation would be in place this Autumn. The delay will cause me some embarrassment and will enable the librarians, who are strongly opposed to some of my proposals to extend library charging powers, to strengthen their position. It will also mean a loss of the impetus behind my initiative and a loss of interest outside the library profession in the scope for developing the public library service through the changes I have proposed.

I recognize your difficulties and must accept your judgement on this. I can only record my disappointment at the delay and try to minimize the damage. It will be very important to present this decision to the public in as positive a way as possible, perhaps with a firm commitment to legislate next Session.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of E (LF), and to Sir Robin Butler.

W
Ridley

RICHARD LUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

Local Gov't: Relations
Pt 35



CCBG

CONFIDENTIAL



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

15 April 1988

Wbpm

Dear Nick

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE BILL: FEES AND CHARGES

file 0-13/10

I have seen a copy of Richard Luce's letter to you of 11 April in response to your letter of 28 March to John Major in which you sought colleagues' agreement that the provisions on fees and charges which it had originally been intended to include in the Local Government Finance Bill should instead be held over until the Housing and Local Government Bill planned for next Session.

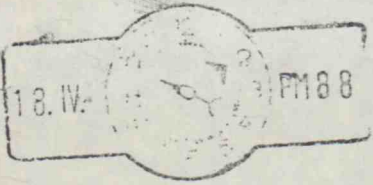
While I am entirely content for these clauses to be deferred until next Session, I cannot agree to Richard's suggestion that you should give a commitment to introduce the provision next Session. An undertaking of that nature would, of course, fly in the face of the convention that we do not commit ourselves to the introduction of legislation in a particular Session ahead of the Queen's Speech. I should be grateful, therefore, if you could avoid going beyond saying that the necessary clauses will be introduced at the next convenient legislative opportunity, or words to that effect.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of E(LF), Richard Luce and Sir Robin Butler.

John Wakeham
John

JOHN WAKEHAM

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley AMICE MP
Secretary of State
Department of the Environment



Local Relations Pt 35



CCBA.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

Telephone 01-210 3000

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

NBEM

REC 6

6/4

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

5 April 1988

Dear Secretary of State

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE BILL: FEES AND CHARGES

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 28 March to John Major. I can see the force of the arguments for not including in the Local Government Finance Bill the provisions to widen local authority power to levy fees and charges, and in the circumstances I would not object to holding them back for the Housing and Local Government Bill.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of E(LF), Richard Luce and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely

Rod Clark

PP JOHN MOORE

*(Approved by the Secretary of State
 and signed in his absence).*

LOCAL GOVT : Relations PT34.