

PRIME MINISTER

TIMING ON NON-DOMESTIC REVALUATIONS

You asked Nicholas Ridley at E(LF) on 14 April to reconsider the requirement for non-domestic revaluations to occur every five years.

His minute of 22 April records and explains his view that this provision should stay. The key arguments are:

- regular revaluations are necessary to ensure fairness;
- reintroducing flexibility over timing would bring almost universal opposition from business;
- the main difficulty in the past with the revaluations has been the domestic sector - that is now a thing of the past;
- the NNDR proposals were got through the House on 21 April on the basis of statutory five year revaluations; to change that now would require amendments in the Lords.

Do you want to pursue this further or do you accept Mr. Ridley's arguments to stick with statutory five year revaluations?

Pcc.

Accept
mr

(PAUL GRAY)

24 April 1988