



HOUSE OF LORDS,
LONDON SW1A 0PW

25 April 1988

The Right Honourable
Malcolm Rifkind MP
Secretary of State for Scotland
New St Andrew's House
St James Centre
Edinburgh EH1 3SX

NBPM

ARCG

27/4

Dear Malcolm,

COMMUNITY CHARGE: LEGAL AID FOR APPEALS AGAINST CIVIL PENALTIES

Thank you for your letter of 8th April ^{at FLOP} proposing that legal aid should after all be available in Scotland for appeals against the imposition of civil penalties by the community charges registration officer.

The arguments which you advance seem to me strong ones and in the absence of the pressure feared by Quintin Hailsham to extend legal aid to similar appeals to tribunals in England and Wales I am content that legal aid should be made available for such cases in Scotland. I agree that, if necessary, it should be possible to distinguish the hearing of appeals before a Sheriff Court from those before a tribunal where legal representation is not required and I am not proposing any change to the legal aid arrangements in England and Wales. Of course, those financially eligible will be able to obtain advice and assistance under the green form scheme for help with the preparation of their case.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, to the other members of E(LF), the Lord Advocate and the Attorney General, and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours ever,

James.

LOCAL ROUTE: Rates Paid

