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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon John Moore MP
 Secretary of State for Social Services
 Department of Health and Social Security
 Richmond House
 79 Whitehall
 London
 SW1A 2NS

10th June 1988

Dear Secretary of State,

PROJECT 2000: STUDENT NURSES AND THE COMMUNITY CHARGE

Nicholas Ridley sent me a copy of his letter to you of 26 May. I have now seen your reply and Malcolm Rifkind's letter of 7 June. *at flap* *at flap* *will request if required*

I was pleased to see your assurance that the bursaries provided for student nurses should be comparable to support for other full-time students, uprated to take into account the shorter vacations they will have. I understand that this was the basis on which the cost of the new training package was estimated and, as such, on which my agreement to your proposals was given.

I know that you do envisage having to offer the equivalent of the current salary to mature student nurses or those with domestic responsibilities. I recognise that, given the fall in the qualified school-leaver population, we need to increase the numbers of mature entrants to nursing and I accept that it may be necessary to offer such people more than the basic bursary. However, in implementing the package, it will be important to ensure that this concession is not extended to other groups. Those on salaries could not, of course, be eligible for the 80 per cent student discount on the community charge.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, members of E(LF), Bertie Denham, David Waddington and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely,

John Major

for JOHN MAJOR
 (Approved by the Chief Secretary
 and signed in his absence)

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