



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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From the Secretary of State for Social Services

CCFU

MBPM

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

REC6
8/7

7 July 1988

Dear Nicholas,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE BILL: COMMUNITY CHARGE

Thank you for copying to me your minute to the Prime Minister of 4th July. I have also seen Malcolm Rifkind's letter to you of the same date.

I support your proposal that the residents of very short stay hostels and night shelters, where these are used by people who are likely to be eligible for maximum rebates, should be exempted from the community charge. I have always been concerned about the operational arrangements for providing rebates in these circumstances, and I agree that total exemption would be a sensible course. Our Departments will need to agree both the definition of the premises that are to attract the exemption and the arrangements under which the definition is to be applied.

As far as student nurses are concerned, I agree with you that it would be unrealistic for us to seek to overturn the Lords amendment. However there will need to be detailed discussion on a whole range of related issues, and I suggest that our Departments get together to work in close cooperation on these. Incidentally, the implementation of Project 2000 will be phased in over a number of years, and the payment of bursaries to student nurses will be introduced on that basis.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Whips in the Commons and the Lords, members of E(LF) and Sir Robin Butler.

JOHN MOORE