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The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley AMICE MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
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NBRM
Feb 6
5/10

Dear Nick.

October 3

COMMUNITY CHARGE: STUDENT NURSES

Review per
You copied to me your letter of 8 September to Malcolm Rifkind. I agree with your view that the 80 per cent relief from the full Community Charge should be confined to nurses following Project 2000 courses and therefore falling within the definition of a full-time student.

As the introduction of the Community Charge approaches, the Government is bound to receive numerous enquiries on behalf of other trainees and apprentices about their status, and it is important that we are in a position to give a consistent and convincing reply. If we can state that nobody will be given full student status unless they satisfy the specified criteria (ie at least 21 hours of supervised study a week for at least 24 weeks in the year), this should help to avoid controversy on this point. But we can only give this reply if we apply the criteria very strictly to trainees for nursing, midwifery and health visiting. I would therefore not be in favour of any bending of the rules.

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

Norman Fowler

NORMAN FOWLER

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