



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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From the Secretary of State for Social ~~Services~~ Security

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
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NBR

PLC

28 October 1988 28/10

Dear Nicholas

THE COMMUNITY CHARGE: PUBLICITY

You wrote to John Major on 14 October, copies to the Prime Minister, Peter Walker, Malcolm Rifkind and Robin Butler, enclosing a draft of a new booklet you plan to issue providing up-to-date information about the community charge.

I had not seen this booklet, nor had my officials. I was surprised, not only that I was not among the copyees of your letter but also that my Department had not been consulted about the draft at an earlier stage. It contains a number of references to community charge rebates - for which, as you know, my Department is responsible - which are factually wrong or misleading. I see that you intend to make the booklet available from mid-November and it appears that the Central Office of Information may already be engaged in having it printed. I have asked my officials urgently to discuss re-drafting of the relevant passages with yours and I must ask you to go no further until they are satisfied that it adequately reflects our interests. I would be grateful if you could ensure that this Department is consulted at an early stage when any publicity material making reference to community charge rebates is being prepared.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Peter Walker, Malcolm Rifkind, John Major and Sir Robin Butler.

JOHN MOORE

28. X. 1958

Handwritten notes, possibly "1958" and "28. X."

