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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

28 November 1988

Dear Roger,

LOCAL AUTHORITY FEES AND CHARGES

The Prime Minister has seen the recent correspondence between your Secretary of State and the Chief Secretary.

The Prime Minister recognises the sensitivity of proposals for introducing charges, and thinks it important to be clear what is in mind and whether it is possible. At the same time she believes it is important to plan for the post-1990 financial regime for local authorities, which should lead to a more enabling and overseeing role in which charging could become more important.

The Prime Minister therefore sees attraction in proceeding broadly along the lines suggested by the Chief Secretary in his latest letter of 22 November, of introducing a general power but with each application through secondary legislation being subject to Affirmative Resolution. In the course of debate on the general power she thinks it would be helpful to highlight the main possibilities currently in mind for further charging drawing on the list attached to your Secretary of State's letter of 17 November.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of E(LF) and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours,
Paul

(PAUL GRAY)

Roger Bright, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.

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