

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SWIH 9AT

16 December 1988

NBPM

16/12

Dear Michola.

## THE COMMUNITY CHARGE BILL

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 8 December to John Major.

I am disappointed that you do not feel able to accept my suggestion for dealing with specific grants. I still see difficulties in showing grossed up figures on the Bill, particularly for the joint police authorities and the Metropolitan Police. I would not wish to see these difficulties used to question the manner in which specific grant payments are made. If the intention is to show the grant explicitly and simply on the face of the Bill then I remain of the view that this is best achieved by a separate entry "below the line". I do not wish to delay further the consultations with local authorities. But in the light of their comments on the proposals I may wish to return to this issue again.

Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, member of  $E(\mathrm{LF})$  and  $\operatorname{Sir}$  Robin Butler.

Joury 12.

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley, MP.