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The Rt Hon John Wakeham MP
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
68 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

My ref:
Your ref:

Prime Minister 2

19 April 1989

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Dear John

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NEW BURDENS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

As usual, I am enclosing the latest list of Central Government initiatives, having financial and manpower implications for local government, which have been notified to my Department during the last six months.

The first list contains details of 17 proposals which are likely to result in increased demands on local authorities. This compares with the 29 and 24 items identified in the two preceding periods. This is an encouraging trend. At least 10 of the items listed are expected to have only minimal implications for local authority expenditure. Nevertheless, other proposals such as increasing the number of Environmental Health Officers, will have a substantial impact, and there are some where the costs remain unquantified. I would ask colleagues to continue their efforts to limit the additional demands being placed on local authorities, and where such are unavoidable to ensure that the implications for local government are costed as early as possible.

During the current period we have been notified of 4 proposals which seem likely to lead to overall savings for local authorities; there were none in the preceding period. This is welcome, and I am sure that colleagues will continue to look closely at the scope for reducing demands on local government.

As previously, my officials are very grateful for the co-operation of sponsors in administering the new burdens procedure and, in particular, in providing early warning of potential new burdens.

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

Nicholas Ridley

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

INITIATIVES AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT - 13 SEPTEMBER 1988 - 12 MARCH 1989

POSSIBLE EXPENDITURE AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS

A. POTENTIAL INCREASES

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
1. EC Draft Directive on post mortem examination of slaughtered animals.	MAFF	Not yet quantified.	Details of proposals not yet known.
2. Regulations requiring local authorities to register all breeding flocks of chickens.	MAFF	Significant but, as yet, unquantified costs in registering up to 28,000 flocks.	Urgent consultations with LAAs taking place, Regulations to be introduced shortly
3. Regulations to introduce grading requirements for certain types of egg.	MAFF	Considerable but, as yet, unquantified costs.	Urgent consultations with LAAs taking place.
4. Amendment to liquid egg pasteurisation regulations.	MAFF	Not yet quantified, but unlikely to be great.	Draft regulations to be issued shortly for consultation.
5. Proposals for ensuring that young people with disabilities are not placed in unsuitable employment.	DEM	De minimis	Consultation completed, responses being considered.
6. Radioactive Substances Act 1960 :	DOE RAS	Approx. £50,000 p.a.	Consultation likely end April/beginning May.
7. Circular to local authorities on harassment.	DOE HPRS	Limited, unquantified costs should be offset by savings in the cost of providing accommodation under the 1985 Act.	Circular now issued.
8. Housing : Code of practice.	DOE HMP	Possible small resource implications.	
9. Proposed new licence authorising authorities to take or kill the Fat or Edible Dormouse.	DOE DRA	De minimis	Only a handful of authorities affected.

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
10. EC Construction Products Directive.	DOE CID	Not yet quantified.	An assessment of costs will be made when proposals for meeting the EC requirements are clearer.
11. Extension to the list of notifiable diseases.	DOE	Small if not negligible financial and manpower implications.	Regulations now in force.
12. Proposed changes to the Guardians Ad Litem service.	DOH	De minimis	Further research into costs being undertaken. Proposals not to be implemented before 90/91.
13. Proposals for improving social services training.	DOH	Significant but as yet unquantified costs.	Still under discussion - the primary aim will be to secure better use of resources already committed by LAs.
14. Food Safety : proposals to increase the number of Environmental Health Officers (EHOs).	DOH	Currently there is a shortfall of about 400 EHOs. Likely costs of £10m p.a.	Once proposals firmed up, LAAs will be consulted on what the staff levels should be.
15. Report of the Inter-Departmental racial attacks group.	HO	De minimis	Letter sent to LAAs, main report to issue in May.
16. New Representation of the People legislation	HO	De minimis	Awaiting responses to 2nd consultation paper.
17. Introduce powers of entry, search and inspection to strengthen the provisions of S.22 of the Solicitors Act 1974.	LCD	De minimis	Anticipated that powers would in practice be very infrequently used.

INITIATIVES AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT, 13 SEPTEMBER 1988 - 12 MARCH 1989 :
 POSSIBLE EXPENDITURE AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS.

B. POTENTIAL DECREASES

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
1. White Paper 'The Future of Development Plans'	DOE PDC	Some savings (as yet unquantified) for county councils. Initially extra work for District Councils, which may be offset in the longer term by a reduction in development control workloads.	White Paper issued January 1989. Likely to be further discussions with LAAs to assess manpower implications.
2. Control of Pollution (Amendment) Bill : Private Member'S Bill.	DOE LEQ	Administrative costs to be recovered by a registration fee. Strengthened powers may lead to savings in clean-up costs.	Committee stage during April.
3. Registration Green Paper.	OPCS	Likely to be a saving in the region of £1 to £2m p.a.	Detailed quantified estimates being prepared.
4. Proposals for introducing private sector involvement into the remand system.	HO	Possible benefits for police authority costs/manpower through the contracting out of operations. But further work being undertaken to test the implications.	White Paper planned for issue in the Autumn.





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The Rt Hon John Wakeham MP
Lord President of the Council
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SW1A 2AT

My ref:
Your ref:

Prime Minister ~

26 October 1988

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Dear John

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NEW BURDENS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

As usual I am attaching the list of Central Government initiatives, having financial and manpower implications for local government, which have been notified to my Department during the last six months.

This list contains details of 24 proposals which are likely to result in increases in demands on local government. This is a modest but nonetheless welcome reduction compared with the 29 items identified in the preceding period. Although at least seven of these are expected to have only minimal implications for local authority expenditure we must be conscious of the cumulative effect of the additional demands placed on local authorities and of the need to give them sufficient time to prepare for new responsibilities.

We have not been notified of any proposals which will result in savings for local government. This compares with 12 such initiatives in the preceding period. I find this disappointing. Looking for such reductions is an ongoing process and not a one-off operation, particularly where other initiatives may increase the burdens on local authorities, and I would like colleagues to rescrutinise their demands and consider whether any can be reduced if not eliminated.

More generally, the new burdens procedure provides a tried and tested mechanism for identifying and quantifying additional demands on local government. My officials look forward to the continued co-operation of sponsors in ensuring that it works successfully and effectively.

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

Nicholas Ridley

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

NEW INITIATIVES AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT - 13 MARCH - 12 SEPTEMBER 1988:

POSSIBLE EXPENDITURE AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS

A. POTENTIAL INCREASES

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
1. Disposal of Waste (Control of Beet Rhizomania Disease) Order 1988.	MAFF	Service charges likely to off-set any additional financial costs.	Implemented on 1 March 1988.
2. Nematodes in marketed fish and fish products.	MAFF	Not yet quantified.	LAAs have been consulted; comments awaited.
3. Minced meat : harmonisation of trading rules.	MAFF	Not yet quantified.	
4. National aids to investments in manufacture and marketing of milk products.	MAFF	Possible marginal increases in manpower.	Implemented on 1 July 1988.
5. Management of the bass fishery.	MAFF	De minimis	Regulations under the Sea Fish Conservation Act 1967; to take effect from 1 January 1990.
6. Duties and qualifications of non-veterinary assistants in export plants.	MAFF	De minimis	EC Proposals..
7. Milk Import Regime	MAFF	Not yet quantified.	Likely to be introduced early 1989.
8. Hygiene rules for production of game meat.	MAFF	Not yet quantified; costs likely to be recovered from industry.	EC draft proposals.
9. Fire Services expenditure: Report of joint working party on appointments provisions.	HO	Entire package expected to cost £90,000 - £140,000 pa; ACC expect higher costs; the major cost proposals are to be reconsidered.	Further round of consultation with the LAAs proposed.

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN - AND OVERALL COMMENTS
10. Punishment, Custody and the Community : draft Green Paper.	HO	Not yet quantified.	Consultation process underway.
11. London Development: monitoring system.	DOE	Feasibility study will quantify cost	Feasibility study to be carried out.
12. Tree preservation orders on woodlands.	DOE	Not yet quantified.	
13. Environmental assessment circular.	DOE	Likely to be de minimis.	Relates to the Town and Country Planning (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1988.
14. Study to evaluate coverage and similar schemes.	DOE	De minimis	
15. The North Report on road traffic law	DTP	Not yet quantified.	
16. Yellow road marking materials - lead content.	DTP	Not yet quantified; likely to be in excess of £2M pa.	Reduced lead levels requested by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in 1983; likely to take two years to come into effect.
17. Automatic route guidance system for drivers.	DTP	Not yet quantified; power to set charges.	Road Traffic Bill.
18. Bridge Bashing.	DTP	Not yet quantified.	
19. Traffic sign revisions : Bus Signs.	DTP	De minimis	Consultation stage.
20. Emergency protection orders and care orders : Cleveland Inquiry Report.	DOH	£7-8M with one-off start up costs of £4.5M.	

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
21. Access to Personal Files Act 1987: Social Work Regulations.	DOH	Up to £2M	PES provision sought.
22. Income support for hostel dwellers.	DOSS	Not yet quantified.	
23. Reform of non-standard routes to qualified teacher status.	DES	De minimis	
24. Energy labelling Directives.	DEN	Not yet quantified; likely to be de minimis.	