

RATING OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY DEPARTMENT Jameson House, 69 Notting Hill Gate, London, W11 3JU Telephone: 01-229 9841, ext. 4-6

Our reference: 10-5-45 \$ 2-M 863

Your reference:

P R Gray Esq 10 Downing Street LONDON SW1A 2AA

8th May 1989

Ocar Paul

COMMUNITY CHARGE: CHEQUERS

We spoke on Friday about the position of Chequers in relation to the community charge. I said at the time that I thought that Chequers was deemed to be a property occupied by the Crown. I have now checked the position and find that this is not the case.

Under the Chequers Estate Act, the Trustees were made responsible for rates on the property. As a result the Trust is the occupier and the house is rateable in the normal way. The Valuer here who deals with Buckinghamshire spoke to the District Valuer's Office on Friday. They confirmed that Chequers is included in the Valuation List as a domestic property. However, they added that they were not sure whether it would be correct to continue this treatment after April 1990; the Valuation Office is considering this.

We will try and ensure that the position of Chequers in relation to the community charge is settled quickly. I will let you know when there is a firm decision.

Jours sincerely

Joe

J E J DONOVAN

Inspector of Rates