



RATING OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Jameson House, 69 Notting Hill Gate, LONDON, W11 3JU

Telephone: 01-229 9841, ext. 46

Our reference: 2-M 863
Your reference:

B R Hawtin Esq
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

11th May 1989

Dear Hawtin

THE COMMUNITY CHARGE

As you will be aware, the community charge will replace rates on domestic property from 1 April 1990. Since your Minister is provided with accommodation, a decision will be required on what constitutes his main residence. There have already been questions from the Press about the Prime Minister's position in relation to the community charge.

The Local Government Finance Act 1988 requires Community Charge Registration Officers (CCROs) to canvass all properties to determine who is resident there, and consequently liable to pay a personal community charge or, in cases where a domestic property is not a sole or main residence, who is liable to pay a standard community charge. The decision as to what constitutes a sole or main residence lies initially with the CCRO. There is a right of appeal. The canvass is being carried out now and your Department has probably received the canvass form.

I imagine that your Minister has property of his own in addition to the accommodation provided for his use. If so, a decision will be required on what constitutes his main residence, and the main residence of his wife. If the officially provided accommodation is his main residence, then he will be liable to pay the personal community charge to Westminster City Council and will be liable to pay a standard community charge on his other property. Alternatively, if your Minister's main residence is his own property, he will be liable to pay the personal community charge to the local authority for the area. Since accommodation provided for Ministers in London is regarded as a Crown occupation, your Department would be liable for the standard community charge on domestic accommodation which you occupy. A third possibility is that your Minister's main residence could be the officially provided accommodation and his wife's their own property; in this case each person would be liable to pay the personal community charge to the relevant local authority and there would be no liability for standard charge on either property.

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have said, initially for the CCRO for the area, in consultation if necessary with the other CCRO concerned. It is also a personal matter for your Minister. But, since there is likely to be Press and other interest in this subject, your Minister will wish to ensure that he can, if necessary, defend the decision publicly. The Prime Minister's Office also consider it important that there should be reasonable consistency of treatment for all Ministers provided with accommodation in London.

This office, which is a sub-Department of the Treasury, is responsible for contributions in lieu of rates on property occupied by the Crown. We are not therefore responsible for community charge issues but we will, of course, provide any advice we can on this subject in relation to Crown property.

I am writing similarly to the Private Secretaries of other Ministers provided with accommodation and copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Sir Robin Butler and Sir Peter Middleton.

Yours sincerely

J E J Donovan

J E J DONOVAN
Inspector of Rates



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Telephone: 01-229 9841, ext. 46

Our reference: 2-M 863

Your reference:

J S Wall Esq
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for
Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AL

11th May 1989

Dear Wall

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Jamson House, 69 Notting Hill Gate, LONDON, W11 3JU

Telephone: 01-229 9841, ext. 46

Our reference: 2-M 363

Your reference:

P J C Mawer Esq
Principal Private Secretary to
The Secretary of State for
the Home Department
50 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
SW1H 9AT

11th May 1989

Dear Mawer

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Jameson House, 69 Notting Hill Gate, LONDON, W11 3JU

Telephone: 01-229 9841, ext. 46

Our reference: 2-M 863

Your reference:

J P Stockton Esq
Private Secretary to
The Lord Chancellor
House of Lords
LONDON
SW1A OPW

11th May 1989

Dear Stockton

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Jameson House, 69 Notting Hill Gate, LONDON, W11 3JU

Telephone: 01-229 9841, ext. 46

Our reference: 2-M 863

Your reference:

M Maxwell Esq
Private Secretary to
The Secretary of State
Northern Ireland Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AZ

11th May 1989

Dear Maxwell

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Your Ministers will wish to be aware that Regulations to be made under the Local Government Finance Act will require CCROs to exclude from the public Community Charge Register the names of persons if there is cause to believe that inclusion might result in the person being subject to the threat of physical violence

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Telephone: 01-229 9841, ext. 46

Our reference: 2-M 863

Your reference:

Mrs J Chimes
Private Secretary to
The Attorney General
Royal Courts of Justice
Strand
LONDON
WC2A 2LL

11th May 1989

Dear Mrs. Chimes:

THE COMMUNITY CHARGE

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