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My ref:

Your ref :

Andrew Turnbull Esq
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16 May 1989

Dear Andrew

COMMUNITY CHARGE LEAFLET

We spoke about the outcome of today's Court proceedings on the Community Charge leaflet. I attach a copy of the speaking notes which we provided for the Chief Secretary and for Mr Luce for use in this afternoon's debate on Government Publicity.

Yours
[Handwritten signature]

A D RING
Private Secretary

STATEMENT ON OUTCOME OF THE GREENWICH CASE

The Government has always believed that the leaflet was clear, concise and accurate, and are pleased by the vindication of our position in the High Court. It is highly desirable that the public should have early information about the community charge and we are anxious to resume distribution of the leaflet. However, despite the fact that we were free to do so as a result of the Court's decision today, we have given an undertaking not to resume distribution before tomorrow while Greenwich consider whether to appeal, and thereafter until the Court of Appeal has decided the case provided that any appeal can be heard in the next few days.

judgments are judgments. Not for Ministers to say whether they
are good or bad

WIND UP SPEECH FOR MR LUCE

COMMUNITY CHARGE LEAFLET

The [excellent] judgement made by the High Court this afternoon vindicates the action taken by my Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment. We were always confident of that outcome and in future it might be more prudent for HG opposite to wait for Court judgements before commenting on actions when they were not yet determined by the Courts.

I understand the London Borough of Greenwich are considering whether to apply to the Court of Appeal. That is their right. Pending the outcome of any such appeal we have volunteered not to resume distribution of the community charge leaflet provided that any appeal is heard within a few days. It is a pity that this action has prevented many people from reading the leaflet so far. But I am confident this delay is only temporary.