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My ref:

Your ref:

The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP  
Secretary of State for Scotland  
St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

25 May 1989

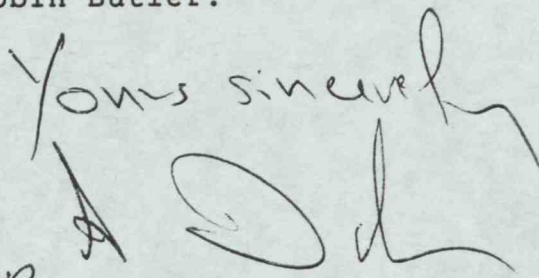
Dear Secretary of State

Thank you for your letter of 8 May proposing to include in the local Government and Housing Bill an amendment to your general default power to require local authorities to remedy defaults in fulfilling statutory duties. <sup>WILL REQUEST IF REQUIRED</sup>

There is no equivalent to this power in England and Wales. Such default powers of this kind as exist are confined to functions under individual Acts.

Your proposal has only remote implications for my English interests, except insofar as it affects the time available for the Bill. It must be for you to judge how much opposition it will arouse. But there is no guillotine for this Bill. I do not want it delayed by injecting extraneous Scottish material. It might be possible to introduce it in the Lords, where there seems to be less tendency to argue against specifically Scottish proposals in legislation aimed mainly at England and Wales, but that is for the Business Managers to judge.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the members of H and L committees and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely  
  
 PP

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

(Approved by the Secretary of State and Signed on his behalf)

