



Minister for Local Government

Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB

Telephone

12 June 1989

THE COMMUNITY CHARGE AND SECOND HOMES

I thought you might like a short note on the way you may be affected by the community charge, particularly as regards second homes.

If you have one home you will pay the personal community charge there. Those with more than one home will pay the personal community charge at their main home and will then pay a standard community charge where they have another home, provided that no-one uses that other residence as their main home.

It is not up to individuals to decide which of their residences is their main one. That is the responsibility of the Community Charges Registration Officer (CCRO). Ministers will wish to provide the CCRO with the information that will be necessary for this decision to be properly made. I am therefore recommending that you write a note which expresses clearly your particular circumstances and send it to the CCROs concerned so they will be able to decide properly your liability for the community charge.

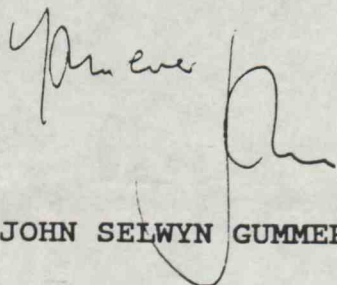
Ministers are, of course, in the same position as all other Members of Parliament, except that the nature of Ministerial responsibilities may make it more likely that their London address will be held to be their main home. Even so, Ministers' personal situations will vary considerably. There will be some whose wives are clearly resident at the constituency home where their children go to school and who only visit London from time to time. They themselves, however, may come to London on Sunday nights and spend most of the week here except for holiday periods. Others will



Local Govt: Rates
R12

have grown-up children or elderly relatives living at one or other of their homes. Whatever the circumstances the important fact is that it is the CCRO who makes the decision, not the Minister. That means that when registration is complete not all Ministers will find themselves in precisely the same position.

If you have any concerns and would like a word with me do please telephone my office on 276 3190.



JOHN SELWYN GUMMER

Definitions

Personal Community Charge - The usual Community Charge levied by local councils.

Standard Community Charge - The charge levied on second homes which can be up to twice the personal community charge. This is not affected by the number of people using the house as a second home. However if anyone is registered at an address for the personal community charge, no standard community charge is payable.

CCRO - Community Charge Registration Officer - the local official responsible for producing and updating the community charge register.

The Baroness Trumpington

