



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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Telephone 01-210 3000

From the Minister of State for Social Security and the Disabled

cc: PL

The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind QC  
 Secretary of State for Scotland  
 Scottish Office  
 Whitehall  
 London SW1A 2AU

NBM

RSC 21/7

27 JUL 1989

Dear Malcolm,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING BILL: EXEMPTIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY CHARGE

Thank you for copying to us your letter of 19 July to Nicholas Ridley about extending the exemptions from the community charge.

I support your proposal to bring in an amendment to extend the exemption to include 18 year olds who are in care and still at school. This group, as you point out, do not attract Child Benefit, and it was never our intention that they should be liable for the charge. I agree that the amendment should refer to paragraphs 1(b) and 1(c) of Schedule 1 of the Child Benefit Act 1975.

I do not, however, agree that the exemption should be extended to include 18 year olds who are entitled to Severe Disablement Allowance, which has now replaced the non-contributory Invalidity Pension. 18 year olds entitled to SDA are able to claim Income Support even when they are still at school, and they are thus helped with the minimum 20 per cent community charge payment.

Copies of this letter go to members of E(LF) and L Committees.

Yours sincerely

Nick.

NICHOLAS SCOTT

Local Govt - Rates Pr 13.

