8 August 1989 Lord Sanderson,

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE WHITEHALL, LONDON SWIA 2AT

NBM Anider.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING BILL: EXEMPTIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY CHARGE

Thank you for your letter of 1 August about the proposal to extend the present exemption from the community charge for persons in respect of whom another person is entitled to child benefit. It was good of you to reply so promptly in Malcolm Rifkind's absence on holiday.

I have noted your point concerning the advisability of exempting from the community charge requirement people such as foster children and, needless to say, I am sympathetic to it. Nevertheless, I can only stress again that once this area of debate is opened up, we must be prepared for the likelihood that the Opposition will also wish to table more controversial amendments to a Bill which is already very tightly timetabled.

I feel I must point out the danger of proceeding along these lines. I am sending a copy of this letter to members of E(LF) and L Committees.

PT. BELSTEAD

(approved by the Lord Privy Seal and signed in his absence)

Yours soncerely.

The Lord Sanderson of Bowden