PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-276 3000

My ref: HU/PSO/30532/89

Your ref:

21 September 1989

Dear Douglas,

COMMUNITY CHARGES: STANDARD SPENDING ASSESSMENTS

Thank you for your letter of 12 September to David Hunt in response to the letter of 21 August to John MacGregor.

I appreciate that assessments for the single service Fire and Civil Service Defence Authorities need careful handling but I had hoped that the extensive work of officials from both our Departments in consultation with the Local Authority Associations, had produced an acceptable solution. I accept, however, that the situation has changed very recently and that Mr Clarkson's plans give greater emphasis to the need to have careful regard to the position in London.

In the light of this, officials have considered all the possibilities again and have come up with a formula based on the following indicators:-

> Population (36%), fire and false alarm calls (40%), ward weighted density (18%), category A risk areas (2%)

This formulation is exemplified in column 3 of the attached table. It will help with your concern over London's position, whilst also giving all the Metropolitan FCDSs, except South Yorkshire, a higher assessment than at present. It has already been discussed with your officials who have seen thc results in more detail.

I hope that you will be able to support the inclusion of the new option in the proposed package of SSAs. I should add that the alternative which you put forward of separate control totals for the FCDAs and the shires would not be acceptable. It would lead to renewed pressure for similar divisions for other blocks - notably the large and diffuse "other services block" - which would be difficult to resist. If we were driven down this road we would very quickly lose the advantages of simplification which we have been striving to achieve. On the use of establishments, there are difficulties at present in defending the figures we would need to have suitable assurances from your Department that the establishments are appropriate for each authority. But I certainly accept that this is something that we might look at as a possibility in the longer term.

I would be grateful if you could confirm, by the end of this week, that you find our revised proposal acceptable. I am copying this letter to all members of E(LG) and to Sir Robin Butler.

CHRISTOPHER CHOPE

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP

TABLE 1

FIRE AND CIVIL DEFENCE NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

FURTHER OPTION - 15 SEPTEMBER 1989 (£M)

AUTHORITY	COL 1 1989/90 GRE excluding debt	COL 2 Option 21/8/89	COL 3 19/9/89
SHIRE COUNTIES			
Avon	14,392	13.355	14.173
Bedfordshire	7.136	6.728	6.976
Berkshire	10.445	10.367	10.447
Buckinghamshire	8.003	7.986	7.714
Cambridgeshire	8.097	8.356	7.840
Cheshire	13.663	14.639	13.600
Cleveland	12.571	11.234	12.843
Cornwall	5.984	5.930	5.259
Cumbria	7.314	7.232	6.493
Derbyshire	12.079	11.503	11.634
Devon	14.493	13.729	13.387
Dorset	8.703	8.226	8.192
Durham	8.869	10.155	8.898
East Sussex	9.964	9.007	9.540
Essex	21.306	20.493	20.382
Gloucestershire	6.927	7.041	6.596
Hampshire	22.213	19.900	20.615
Hereford and Worcester	8.753	8.545	8.164
Hertfordshire	13.587	12.801	13.284
Humberside	14.969	14.759	14.143
Isle of Wight	1.543	1.514	1.457
Kent	21.015	21.519	21.038
Lancashire	20.802	24.052	22.008
Leicestershire	11.830	11.470	11.559
Lincolnshire	7.362	7.156	6.586
Norfolk	10.028	10.340	9.333
Northamptonshire	7.703	7.781	7.519
Northumberland	4.641	4.527	4.037
North Yorkshire	9.645	9.285	8.614
Nottinghamshire	14.134	15.270	14.730
Oxfordshire	7.437	7.654	7.301
Shropshire	5.514	5.590	5.053
Somerset	6.114	6.044	5.515
Staffordshire	13.777	13.419	13.301
Suffolk	8.593	8.191	7.976

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TABLE 1

FIRE AND CIVIL DEFENCE NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

FURTHER OPTION - 15 SEPTEMBER 1989 (£)

TOTALS & SUBTOTALS

	COL 1 1989/90 GRE excluding debt	COL 2 Option iii) 21/8/89)	COL 3 Option MB22 19/9/89
TOTAL England	769.200	769.200	769.200
TOTAL Shire Counties	417.482	414.932	403.017
TOTAL Metropolitan FCDS's	189.092	210.566	198.052
London FCDA	162.551	143.678	168.111
TOTAL Shire Areas	417.482	414.932	403.017
TOTAL Metropolitan Areas	189.092	210.566	198.052
TOTAL London	162.551	143.678	168.111

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES & SCALING VARIABLES

Option iii) from Needs Assessment Sub-Group Report: independent variable = fire and false alarm calls scaling variable = population

Option MB22 : independent variables = ward-weighted density, fire and false alarm calls, cat A areas scaling variable = population

TABLE 1

FIRE AND CIVIL DEFENCE NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

FURTHER OPTION - 15 SEPTEMBER 1989 (£M)

AUTHORITY	COL 1 1989/90 GRE excluding debt	COL 2 Option 21/8/89	COL 3 19/9/89
Surrey	13,327	15.232	14.087
Warwickshire	7.455	6.865	6.319
West Sussex	9.345	9.833	9.516
Wiltshire	7.747	7.204	6.889
Isles of Scilly	.074	.023	.020
METROPOLITAN JOINT BOARDS			
Joint Boards for Fire and Civil Defence			
London FCDA	162.551	143.678	168.111
Greater Manchester FCDA	42.548	47.877	44.720
Merseyside FCDA	32.548	37.302	32.733
South Yorkshire FCDA	19.123	19.650	19.031
Tyne & Wear FCDA	20.590	23.926	21.902
West Midlands FCDA	44.704	45.933	47.097
West Yorkshire	29.978	35.878	32.569

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