



Paul Gray Esq  
Private Secretary to  
The Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1A 2AA

cc. P.H.  
2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-276 3000

My ref:

Your ref:

25 September 1989

Dear Paul,

My Secretary of State wrote on 14 September about the community charge bill, and in your letter of 18 September you indicated that the Prime Minister was content for the local authorities to be consulted on the proposed format.

Officials have been looking at the detailed drafting of regulations which will prescribe both the form and content of the bill. It has become apparent that the proposed treatment of specific grants, fees, charges and other income necessitates extremely complex regulations which will inevitably increase the risk of defective regulations and successful challenge. As my Secretary of State stressed in his letter, the risk of disruptive legal challenges on the bill must be minimised, and hence my Secretary of State now thinks it would be preferable to make some further revisions in the proposed form of the bill.

I enclose a copy of this modified version. The earlier version included specific grants, fees, charges and other income in the table which meant that they had to be precisely specified in the regulations. Such specification has proved to be extremely difficult. We now propose to show these items separately as estimates below the table which overcomes the legal difficulties. As a result the table would show for each authority straight comparison between the precept it issues and its Standard Spending Assessment as determined by the Secretary of State for the grant system. Both these items can be easily identified and defined.

This modified bill continues to meet the three objectives of explaining how the level of charge has been derived, how that level compares with the charge for standard spending and how much the chargepayer is personally asked to pay. It does however, mean that the regulations will be significantly more straightforward and hence more robust.

I should be grateful if you would please let me know if the Prime Minister is content for the modified version of the proposed bill to be sent to local authorities. I am copying this to the Private Secretaries to members of E(LG) and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours,

A D RING  
Private Secretary

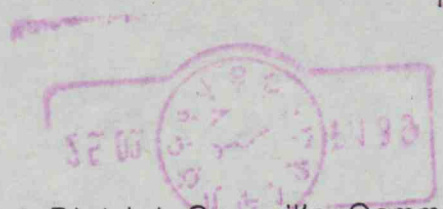


# COMMUNITY CHARGE BILL, 1990-91

## NORTH BARSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr J.K.Smith  
15 Green Street  
BARSET  
BA1 1RJ

1st April 1990



You are shown in the North Barset District Council's Community Charges Register as being subject to a **Personal Community Charge**.

The Community Charge helps to pay for spending by the local authorities in your area. The rest of their spending is supported by Government Standard Spending Grant; by rates paid by businesses; by other Government grants; and by fees, charges and other income. Standard Spending Grant is calculated on the basis that a **standard level of service** can broadly be provided everywhere in the country for a community charge of **£275**.

The Community Charge for your area is made up as follows:

Barsetshire County Council  
North Barset District Council  
Barset Parish Council

YOUR AUTHORITIES' PLANS * £ per head	AMOUNT FOR STANDARD LEVEL OF SERVICE £ per head
750	735
100	} 100
5	
310	310
250	250
<b>295</b>	<b>275</b>

**Less** Government Standard Spending Grant  
Business rates  
Charge before adjustments

**Less** contribution from safety net  
**Plus** Other adjustments  
COMMUNITY CHARGE FOR 1990-91

25
10
<b>280</b>

Charge for 1.4.90 to 31.3.91  
**Less** rebate  
AMOUNT PAYABLE BY YOU

280
—
<b>£280</b>

\* Your authorities' plans are shown after deducting other Government grants estimated at £140 per head, and fees, charges and other income estimated at £50 per head.

Local gov. Rates pt 14

