

cc/p



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My ref:

Your ref:

The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP  
Scottish Office  
Dover House  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1

NBRM 23 October 1989

AMC  
-2/10

Dear Secretary of State

COMMUNITY CHARGE: EXEMPTION FOR THE SEVERELY MENTALLY IMPAIRED

Thank you for your letter of <sup>20</sup>~~20~~ October.

Clearly it is right that people who qualify for exemption under the new definition should not be held liable for community charge which arose before the regulations come into force if they would have met the new criteria before that date. I therefore agree that in Scotland the changes should be retrospective.

I am sending a copy of this letter to members of E(LG) Committee and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely  
PPA [Signature]  
CHRIS PATTEN

(Approved by the Secretary of State  
and Signed in his Absence)

LOCAL GOVT: Rating PTIS

