

file DT

CC: (Economic)
Comm. dev)



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

5 April 1990

I attach, as requested, tables showing the income levels in each local authority at which the full Community Charge becomes payable.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Carys Evans (Chief Secretary's Office).

BARRY H POTTER

Roger Bright, Esq.
Department of the Environment

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Community Charge Benefit Forms

Claims

Local Authorities are statutorily responsible for the administration of Community Charge Benefit and Housing Benefit. The Community Charge Benefit Regulations state that every claim shall be in writing and made on a properly completed form approved by the local authority (charging authority in England or levying authority in Scotland). Local authorities are responsible for the design of their own claim forms.

Community Charge Benefit claim forms do include some questions of a personal nature. This arises because a person's entitlement to Community Charge Benefit depends on their personal and financial position. Local authorities can ask claimants to supply any relevant personal details as long as the information requested is reasonable. Any information which a local authority does obtain is treated as confidential.

The claim form for Hammersmith and Fulham (copy attached) combines Community Charge Benefit and Housing Benefit (this is common). The form clearly states that details about the accommodation are required only if the claimant pays rent. This information is required to assess whether there is any entitlement to Housing Benefit. The detailed questions about privately rented accommodation are needed to enable the Rent Officer to assess (for HB subsidy purposes) whether the rent is reasonable and the accommodation is of suitable size.

LABOUR/CONSERVATIVE NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES

Labour	Charge £	(Ex Safety Net) £	Conservative	Charge £	(Ex Safety Net) £	Charge Difference £
Bristol	490	(513)	Kingswood	395	(395)	95
* Warrington	394	(394)	Trafford	298	(268)	96
Peterborough	360	(345)	Huntingdonshire	298	(262)	62
Brighton	373	(358)	Hove	330	(281)	43
* Bassetlaw	371	(390)	South Kesteven	279	(279)	92
Leicester	405	(429)	Blaby	343	(329)	62
Norwich	365	(365)	South Norfolk	313	(308)	52
Corby	350	(349)	E. Northamptonshire	323	(323)	27
Oxford	489	(414)	Cherwell	383	(342)	106
Ipswich	440	(440)	Mid-Suffolk	332	(323)	108
Liverpool	449	(415)	Wirral	341	(323)	108
Camden	534	(511)	Westminster	195	(173)	339
Haringey	573	(573)	Barnet	338	(268)	235

* indicates neighbours but under different County control

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