

File (PG)

MISS ROBILLIARD

STANDARD COMMUNITY CHARGE IN SOUTHWARK

You asked me to look at the papers that Southwark sent to Mr. Thatcher.

My understanding of the position is as follows.

As one of the notes points out, a standard community charge, where applicable, is payable by a freeholder or leaseholder of a property, i.e., the owner. Unlike the personal charge (which the Prime Minister and Mr. Thatcher will be paying to Westminster), the standard charge is still in effect a tax on property. So it doesn't matter whether the "owner" is one person or a couple. In either case, the same standard charge is payable, depending on the "multiplier" for that class of property.

In the case of the Prime Minister and Mr. Thatcher's house in Dulwich, the latest papers confirm it has been placed in Class P, to which a multiplier of 2 applies. There is no obvious case for challenging that classification. So the liability the Prime Minister and Mr. Thatcher face is to pay 2 X £390, not 2 X £780.

The papers you enclosed include only Mr. Thatcher's name. I assume this is because, when the original registration form was completed, only Mr. Thatcher's name was entered. (And I take it that there is not a separate form you have not sent me which has the Prime Minister's name on it.) But in any event - as explained above - even if the form had had both Mr. Thatcher's and the Prime Minister's names on it as the joint owners of the property, the standard charge liability should still have been 2 X £390.

If Mr. Thatcher wants a word about this, I would be more than happy to pop up.

PG

10 April 1990

jd c:standard