



Prime Minister
An interesting list: no fewer than
23 extra burdens on LGs - and thus the
chargepayer (since they are not really taken
into account in establishing AEF).
Also notable is how little effort appears
to have been put into quantifying the impact.

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
071-276 3000

My ref:
Your ref:

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
68 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

BHP

23 July 1990

We must remain
colleagues from
now

Dear Lord President,

NEW BURDENS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

I am enclosing lists of central government initiatives, having financial and manpower implications for local government, which were notified to my Department during the period from 13 September 1989 to 12 March of this year.

The first list contains details of 23 items which are likely to increase the burden on local authorities. This is a significant reduction when compared with the 34 cases recorded in the autumn. Nevertheless at least two of the items are likely to involve increased costs in excess of £1 million whilst in too many cases the resource implications for local government have been inadequately quantified.

In my announcement to the House on 19 July on next year's local authority financial settlement and the review of the community charge I exhorted local government to restrain expenditure and criticised the many councils who are overspending. But with the introduction of the new local authority financial regime we must all recognise the new burdens have a direct impact on the level of the community charge.

I am therefore looking to colleagues to keep their additional demands on local government to the absolute minimum, to ensure that their proposals are realistically quantified and the potential impact on the community charge fully assessed, and where necessary to negotiate additional financial provision with the Treasury. So my Department will henceforth be operating the new burdens procedure with even more vigour than previously.

The second of the enclosed lists itemises proposals likely to lead to overall savings to local government. There are only 5 of these in comparison with 23 additional burdens.



We should do better than this. We must not give local authorities the opportunity to claim that we are pressing them to cut back on spending on the one hand and imposing new burdens on the other. In particular I want to see sponsors who are proposing new burdens looking hard for a saving of at least equivalent size elsewhere.

I am nonetheless grateful for Departments' continued co-operation in operating the procedure. The positive response to our selective and more intensive monitoring of unquantified but potentially major burdens (savings or costs in excess of £1 million) has been especially helpful; such cases which have arisen since January 1989 and remain unquantified will be followed up at six monthly intervals, in the summer and winter each year, as part of our gradual strengthening of the burdens procedure.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Members of E(LG) and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely

RP. CHRIS PATTEN

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

INITIATIVES AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT - 13 SEPTEMBER 1989 - 12 MARCH 1990
 - POSSIBLE EXPENDITURE AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS

A POTENTIAL INCREASES

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
1. Police Services to Magistrates Courts	HO	Increase. Not yet quantified.	Announcement made in Parliament 30.1.90. Local authority Associations being consulted on likely costs.
2. Report of the Working Group on the Fear of Crime	HO	Increase. Not yet quantified. Home Office currently considering recommendations.	Other Government Departments currently being consulted.
3. Juvenile Remands - proposals for change	HO	Increase. Between £1.7m and £2.5m	Consultation paper about to issue. Proposals foreshadowed in White Paper "Crime Justice and Protecting the Public".
4. Breeding of Dogs	HO	Unknown	Government sponsored Private Member's Bill extending powers of local authorities.
5. Badger Baiting Bill	HO	Unknown	Government sponsored Private Member's Bill extending powers of local authorities.

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
6. Inter-Departmental Circular on Crime Prevention	HO	Unknown. Not yet quantified.	Issue of circular postponed pending further consideration of, inter alia, resource implications.
7. Amendments to the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1984	HSE	Increase. £0.45m, most of which should be recouped through charging	Local authority Associations being consulted.
8. Proposed Control of Explosives Regulations	HSE	Increase. Maximum cost assumptions indicate overall increase of £52,000 - £83,000 pa	Local authority Associations have been consulted on proposal, as a whole, they have already given views on the costs.
9. Courts and Legal Services Bill: Prohibition Against Tying-In	LCD	Increase. Could be in the order of £100,000	Other Government Departments and local authority Associations being consulted on precisely which form the proposed provisions should take.
10. Marketing Standards for Preserved Sardines	MAFF	Increase de minimis	Consultation with LACOTS in progress. SI to be laid shortly.
11. Marketing standards for prepared or preserved tuna.	MAFF	Minimal financial or manpower implications for LAs likely. Expected to be containable within existing resources.	Formal proposal expected in April. Likely effective date 1 Jan 1991.

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
12. Single market measures on fish hygiene.	DOH/MAFF	Currently being considered by Dept of Health.	Implementation of new legislation due to take effect 1 Jan 1993.
13. Internal Drainage Boards (Finance) Regulations 1990 (SI 1990 no 72)	MAFF	LAs to be reimbursed through Revenue Support one year in arrears; adjustments have been made to Standard Spending Assessments to minimise effect in first year.	System of drainage rates levied by IDBs to be replaced by special levies on LAs in district concerned. Some Boards have made voluntary agreements whereby LAs contribution is equal to the amount Boards could have collected from ratepayers.
14. New statutory limit on tin in canned food.	MAFF	Increased interest envisaged for TSOs (Trading Standards offices) 500 extra analyses at £25 each totalling £12,500 a year.	Likely effective date during last quarter of 1990.
15. Housing Co-operatives Report: "Tenants in the Lead"	DOE	Increase by up to £250,000	The recommendations have, following consultations, been agreed by Ministers. The new grant regime is now being introduced.
16. Re-charging for DOE (Marsham Street) Car Parking Facilities.	DOE	Increased costs of £64,800 pa	Use of car park by vehicles of the Traffic Control Systems Unit to be re-charged to London Boroughs from 1.4.90.

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
17. Register of Contaminated Land.	DOE	Likely cost of compiling initial register is £15m. Annual cost of updating register £3m.	Further consultation with LAAs to take place.
18. Non-Automatic Weighing Instruments European Council Document 4077/89 (proposal for measuring equipment).	DTI	Increase unknown	National Weights and Measures Laboratory currently trying to quantify the resource implications of the proposed Directive.
19. Review of Trades Description Act 1968	DTI	Unknown	About to go out to public consultation. Local authority Associations to be asked for views on resource implica-
20. Electromagnetic Compatibility : Proposed EC Directive	DTI	Increase. Initial estimates by LACOTS imply a significant burden. But this depends on the level of enforcement envisaged by DTI	Consultation paper issued.
21. The Weights and Measures (Various Foods) (Amendment) order 1990	DTI	De minimis	Consultation Paper issued.
22. Transport Act (1985) Extension of eligibility for travel concessions (amendment) order 1989.	DTp	Discretionary. Any additional costs arising would be for administration and are likely to be minimal.	Order came into force 1 Jan 1990.
23. 20 mph speed limit zones - guidelines for implementation.	DTp	Discretionary. Any increased costs should be minimal.	Preliminary meetings with the local authority Associations being arranged.

INITIATIVES AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT - 13 SEPTEMBER 1989 - 12 MARCH 1990
 - POSSIBLE EXPENDITURE AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS

B. POTENTIAL DECREASES

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
1. "Efficient Planning" : simplification of planning application fees tariff and recovery of local authority costs.	DOE	Decrease. Unquantifiable at this stage.	Very tentative proposals at present. Ministers have not fully considered.
2. Loads for highway bridges - amended standard for highway bridge loading BD 37/88	DTp	Expected reduction in new bridge maintenance expenditure. Not quantifiable.	New standard published November 1989.
3. Road Traffic (Temporary Restriction) Bill	DTp	Some saving in administrative costs envisaged. Not quantifiable.	Second reading of Bill 2/2/90.
4. Maintenance Enforcement Bill	HO	Unquantified. Possible financial saving through reductions in court time	Possible savings have not been assessed. LAAs have not been consulted.
5. Revised Sheep Scab control arrangements.	MAFF	Unquantified. Possible manpower savings in areas where sheep scab is present.	Submission sent to Ministers. Possible changes to secondary legislation.