



POLICY IN CONFIDENCE

n.s.p.m.
JHP 29/10

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

20 October 1990

Dear Sir,

CHARGE CAPPING: LAMBETH

File with CP

Thank you for your letter of 19 October in response to your copy of my minute of 16 October to the Prime Minister.

I am grateful to you for your approval to the preparation of a separate short Bill. I note your requirement that the Bill should be as tightly drafted as possible. It is indeed my aim that the content should be as short as possible, consistent with achieving the agreed policy objective. As to the timing of introduction of the Bill I share your view that it needs to be ready very early in the new session. But I fear that it may not be practicable to bring the final draft of the Bill, on which I shall want to seek the advice of Treasury Counsel, to Legislation Committee by 13 November. It may not be possible to complete the Bill for consideration earlier than 20 November and I understand your officials do not think that that would prevent enactment by 31 March, which is essential to fit in with the timetable for capping. I am writing to you separately about the Town and Country Planning Bill.

I now propose to announce our intention to legislate in my statement on local government finance.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the other members of E(LG) and QL, the Solicitor General, Sir Robin Butler and Sir Henry de Waal.

CHRIS PATTEN

*Approved by the Secretary of State
on 29/10/90*



Local Gov. Rates #20