



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE  
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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

7 May 1985

*Jan Patrick*

**NEW BURDENS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 10 April to Peter Rees with a revised list of initiatives which may have manpower or financial implications for local authorities. I have also seen Nicholas Ridley's letter of 24 April in reply to yours and Peter Rees' letter of 2 April which covered rather similar ground.

I welcome your suggestion that your Permanent Secretary should circulate a note on the internal guidelines being developed in your Department for operating the new burdens procedures. Peter Rees had proposed in his letter of 2 April a joint guidance note from Treasury and DOE for promulgation to other Departments with local government responsibilities. In view of the wide range of services in local government and the different relationships which have built up over time between Departments and local government in relation to those services, I doubt that a single centrally promulgated set of guidance would be appropriate. It would in any case certainly need to reflect the views of those Departments responsible for major services. I therefore think that your proposal should be our next step. We already have guidelines in this Department and would find it useful to review them in the light of those being put in place in DOE.

Turning now to your list, I have one addition to propose which has already been the subject of correspondence between us:

Unknown

Introduction of automatic inter-authority recoupment for non-advanced further education	DES	Likely to be increases for some authorities and decreases for others; effects probably transitional	Local authority associations being consulted; subsequent report back to 'H' with view to inclusion in Education Bill in 1985-86 session.
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/Of the items

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
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Of the items in the list which are attributed to my Department, I have already given 'H' Committee colleagues an estimate of the additional burden which might arise from the specific grant for in-service training (item 30). I set this at no more than £0.5m. Items 28 (AS levels) and 29 (further report by LEAs on their curricular policies) also formed part of the White Paper "Better Schools" which colleagues cleared for publication. I do not believe that our proposals for reshaping the education welfare service (item 31) should lead to any additional burden. I have undertaken to let you know if the local authority associations take a different view. Item 34 conflates action by DES and DHSS to counter drug abuse. The proposal for the education field which we have in mind to put before the Ministerial Group on the Misuse of Drugs would form part of our programme of Education Support Grants. As such, it will call for a modest redeployment of resources by local education authorities; it will not impose a new burden upon them.

For the future I agree with Nicholas Ridley that it would be helpful if, before further lists are circulated, new entries were discussed between our officials.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of E(LA) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Conrad,*

*Kain.*



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