



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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30 November 1979

MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION

M A Pattison Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
No 10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Mike

The Prime Minister expressed an interest in our Department's list of forthcoming events which included a reference to the issue of a revised general consent to council house sales.

We propose to issue on Wednesday next, 5 December, an amendment to the existing general consent in order to incorporate two points that will be helpful to tenants buying their homes and that are going to be included in the Right to Buy legislation.

The amendment will:

- i. allow local authorities to give credit, for discount purposes, to any period in which a purchaser had lived with a spouse who was a council (or new town) tenant. Under the present general consent, it is only the tenant himself who can count the period of his tenancy for discount purposes, which can be very unfair on widows and those who are divorced or separated.
- ii. allow authorities to take into account, in assessing the price of a council house, the value of improvements made by the occupier, thus avoiding the tenant having to pay twice for his own improvements.

At the same time we shall make similar changes in the general consent for new towns.

An inspired PQ on the amendment to the general consent is
being put down for Answer on Wednesday.

Yours sincerely

Hyder Thomas

MRS L A THOMAS
Private Secretary

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