

CONFIDENTIAL



Mr Norgrove

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 K01238

K01238

NBP7

3 December 1985

Dear Miss Vandervord,

We spoke yesterday about the requirement in minute 5 of last week's Cabinet minutes for consideration to be given to the possibility of imposing a duty on local authorities to enforce the rents and rates to which they were entitled. The immediate background to this remit was a reference by your Secretary of State to the fact that the boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark were not at present collecting all the arrears of rent due to them. Mr Baker did not go into any detail, however, and Cabinet did not begin to attempt a considered view of whatever disciplines may already operate in this field.

We agreed on the telephone that Mr Baker will doubtless want to give the matter more thought, and to report his conclusions to the Prime Minister in a minute.

I am sending copies of this letter to David Norgrove (Prime Minister's Office), Joan MacNaughton (Lord President of the Council's Office), Andrew Lansley (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office) and Michael Stark (Sir Robert Armstrong's Office).

Yours sincerely
Anthony Langdon
A J LANGDON

Miss S Vandervord
APS, Office of the Secretary of State
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1

