

E. R.

CONFIDENTIAL

cc. PS/PUS (B&L)  
PS/Sir Kenneth Bloomfield  
Mr Burns  
Dr Quigley  
Mr Chesterton  
Mr S Hewitt  
Mr Hamilton  
Mr Bell

Mr M Elliott

COMMUNITY CHARGE

In your minute of 28 July you sought advice on the possible extension to NI of the proposals for a community charge (or "poll tax") and conveyed the concern of the Irish side on the grounds that such a charge might "significantly affect" the minority community.

In responding to the Irish, you can say that the community charge will be introduced in Scotland in 1989 and from 1990 in England and Wales; that the Green Paper of January 1986 "Paying for Local Government" which forms the basis of these reforms made it clear that the proposals did not apply to NI; that no decision has yet been taken about whether it will be introduced in NI; that there are important differences between the arrangements for financing local government-type services in GB and in NI, in particular several local government-type services are provided by Departments or public bodies in NI and are funded in part through a regional rate; that further work is being done on this whole subject; that we have noted the concern expressed by the Irish side and that we will be glad to have a discussion through the Secretariat at an appropriate stage in the development of our further work.

R B S

R B SPENCE

14 August 1987

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WH 203/7

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MR Casin

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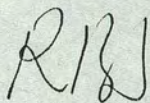
- cc. PS/PUS (B&L)
  - PS/Sir Kenneth Bloomfield
  - Mr Burns
  - Mr M Elliott
  - Mr S Hewitt
  - Mr Hamilton
- 29/7

Dr Quigley

COMMUNITY CHARGE

You should be aware, in advance of tomorrow's PCC discussion about rating policy, that the Irish side of the Secretariat have registered their concern about the possible introduction to NI of the community charge on the grounds that it would "significantly affect" the minority community.

We will need to provide a short (holding) response in the light of the PCC and subsequent Ministerial decisions.



R B SPENCE  
Central Secretariat  
28 July 1987  
/JH

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