

CCB



Reine letter 2

To note that the consultation periods have not yet come together.

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:
16 January 1986

Dear Robert,

N.B.M. Internal

RATES GREEN PAPER

Your Secretary of State and Mr Ancram met my Secretary of State and Mr Waldegrave yesterday. They discussed the correspondence about a uniform non-domestic rate in Scotland, which culminated in Mr Rifkind's letter of 14 January, and the question of the different consultation periods for England, Wales and Scotland raised by my Secretary of State's letter of 14 January.

On non-domestic rates, agreement was reached on an amendment at paragraph 8.31 of the Green Paper. The penultimate sentence will now read as follows: "Until such moves took effect the Government would propose to retain industrial de-rating, and to control non-domestic rate poundage increases by linking these to some general index of price movement (see paragraphs 2.27-2.28)." It was of course accepted that the proposal to cap Scottish non-domestic rate poundages would quickly be raised as soon as consultations get under way.

On the consultation period, your Secretary of State decided to seek comments on the Green Paper by 30 June this year. The text is being amended accordingly. Subject to agreement with the Secretary of State for Wales, comments on the proposals for England the Wales will be sought by 31 October this year. It was agreed that our 2 Departments and the Welsh Office will need to consult closely as decisions are formulated on our White Paper and your legislation, and that it would be desirable for the White Paper on England and Wales to be published before the Scottish Bill. Your Secretary of State stressed the importance of publishing the Bill as soon as possible, but considered it unlikely that he would be able to do that before Christmas.

I am copying this letter to David Norgrove at No 10, the private secretaries of other members of E(LF), and Michael Stark in Sir Robert Armstrong's office.

Yours sincerely,
R U Young

R U YOUNG
Private Secretary

Robert Gordon Esq

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