SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

Prime Minister 2

For x below.

18 April 1986

DKS
21/4.

Dear Willie

NEW BURDENS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In accordance with our agreed arrangements, I enclose the latest lists of Government initiatives arising during the last six months which will have resource implications for local government. The first list contains details of proposals which are likely to result in increases in the demands on local government and the second list identifies measures which are expected to lead to some reduction in the burden. As always, the first list is considerably longer than the second but I am pleased to report that the number of items in the first list (15) is significantly less than on previous occasions (38 for the corresponding period last year and 40 during the period March - September 1985).

Once again my Department is responsible for more items than any other, although these are all very small with over half confirmed as having de minimis implications. In general my officials advise me that most Departments are adopting a conscientious approach to the burdens procedures and the resource implications have generally been much better considered.

Clearly there is no room for complacency, but the reduction in the number of burdens for this period is encouraging. As John MacGregor has already mentioned in the context of Dennis Walters' Private Member's Bill, we are also considering initiating a new review of existing burdens on local government, which should usefully complement the new burdens exercise.

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

Yours ever

Kenneth

KENNETH BAKER

Viscount Whitelaw

NEW INITIATIVES AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT 13 SEPTEMBER 1985 - 12 MARCH 1986: POSSIBLE EXPENDITURE AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS

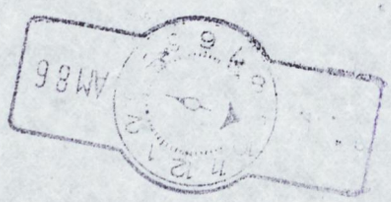
A. POTENTIAL INCREASES

| PROPOSAL | ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT | FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATION | CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Agriculture Bill; proposed amendment of sections 32 and 41 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 | DOE | Maximum increase of £85,000 pa | |
| 2. Implementation of EC Directive on the supervision and control of the Transfrontier Shipment of Hazardous Waste | DOE | De minimis increase; could be offsetting savings through charging in the future | Regulations to be laid before Summer Recess if possible |
| 3. Housing Defects Act: New Monitoring return | DOE | De minimis increase | |
| 4. Land Registers: possible legislation to tighten up Part X of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 to reduce the scope for obstruction of the Government's policy | DOE | Small extra duty on LAs; small increase in manpower | For possible inclusion in a Bill in the 1986/87 Session. |
| 5. Planning Controls over Intensive Livestock Units near residential areas | DOE | Not yet quantified but likely to be minimal | Manifesto commitment; Mr. Baker to discuss with Mr. Jopling shortly; possible amendment of the GDO |
| 6. Services for Drugs Misusers: development of services; jointly financed projects | DHSS | £5m for Health Authorities for 1986/87 mainly for jointly financed projects with LAs; immediate effect on LAs is de minimis for costs of extra administration | |

| PROPOSAL | ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT | FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATION | CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7. Protection of children; issue of Circular | DHSS | To be contained within existing resources | |
| 8. Police and Criminal Evidence Act: H.O. Circular to LAs; social service care for young offenders | DHSS | De minimis increase | |
| 9. The NHS and the Food Act: withdrawal of Crown Immunity | DHSS | Not yet quantified | Discussed at 'H' |
| 10. Motorcycle Exhausts: To meet noise standards | DTP | £150,000 - £200,000 p.a. | Consultation shortly; legislative opportunity needed. |
| 11. Review of Vehicle Excise Duty Exemptions and Concessions | DTP | Early Stage | Vehicles (Excise) Act 1971 |
| 12. Review of the Orange Badge Scheme | DTP | De minimis increase | |
| 13. Lay visitors to Police Stations; circular to Police Authorities | HO | £100,000 pa | Arising from Lord Scarman's report; circular to be issued early in the New Year. |
| 14. Proposals for the dangerous substances (notification and marking of sites) Regulations | HSE | Early Stage | |
| 15. Arrangements for work-related NAFE in 1986-87 | MSC | Increase to be met from within existing resources | |

B. DECREASES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Airports Bill: Transfer of airport undertakings of LAs | DTP | Reconstitution of airport undertakings as Companies Act companies is intended to more than cover setting-up costs and to generate savings in the long term through efficiency as true financial position of airports becomes clearer. | Lords Second Reading |
| 2. Repeal of Licensing of Public Billiard Halls | HO | Not yet quantified | Repeal of certain provisions of the Gaming Act 1845 |
| 3. Sex Discrimination Bill: removal of restrictions on hours of work of women from health and safety legislation; removal of restriction on men's hours of work in the Baking Industry (Hours of Work) Act 1954. | HSE | Not yet quantified | |
| 4. Proposed repeal of the Employment Agencies Act 1973; removal of licensing function | DEM | Early stage | Deregulation |
| 5. Circular on Development by small businesses (2/86) | DOE/WO | Net reduction | |



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CCBG

CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon Kenneth Baker MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1

KBBM

6 May 1986

Dear Kenneth,

**NEW BURDENS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 18 April to Willie Whitelaw.

I agree that the picture for the last six months is an encouraging improvement on earlier periods. But it illustrates the need to pursue vigorously the study of existing burdens that you have in hand. I would also be grateful if you could let me know the scale of the expenditure reductions in your second list, once the proposals are firmed up.

Your list does not, of course, include several Private Members' bills that have been the subject of much discussion recently. I have in mind Tom Clarke's Disabled Persons Bill and Dennis Walters' Child Care Bill. I know that you have been concerned by the possible burdens these bills could impose on local authorities, and I am sure that you agree that it is important to make suitable transfers to provide for their implementation, if they are enacted. Nor, of course, does the list include a number of major policy initiatives already put forward by colleagues which we shall be discussing in E(LA).

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

Yours ever,

JM

**JOHN MacGREGOR**

Local Government: Relations. PE29