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Andy McKeon Esq
Private Secretary to
The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP
Secretary of State
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
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17 July 1990

Dear Andy,

COMMUNITY CARE

-top encl

Thank you for your letter of 16 July inviting comments on your Secretary of State's draft statement on community care.

My Secretary of State has a few detailed comments on the drafting.

Page 2, line 2 would be preferable if 'cannot manage' were to read 'are not managing'. We wish to assert that as a matter of fact authorities are not doing what the sentence says, not that they are unable to do it.

Page 2, line 7 insert before 'levels' 'extremely high' and ^{delete} from 'which' to end of sentence. It is better not to refer to the affordability of this years community charges.

Page 2, third para, line 4: amend so that the sentence concludes: '... local authorities have longer to prepare to discharge these duties efficiently and at a cost which their community charge payers can afford.' We do not need to relate the assertion to all the duties of local authorities.

Page 3, paragraph 3 would, contrary to convention, anticipate the fact that there is to be statement on Thursday about local government finance. Amend 'tomorrow' to read 'shortly'.

Page 4, last sentence: similarly this needs to be amended to read, 'This will be taken into account in the 1991 settlement for local authority spending to be announced shortly.'

Yours

I am copying this as you did.

Phillip

PHILLIP WARD
Private Secretary



NAT HEALTH: Exp & eff pr 25

