1. Introduction

The Circular attached at Appendix 1 contains Statutory Instruments extending by one year the moratorium on CCT under the 1980 Local Government, Planning and Land Act, which was introduced due to local government reorganisation and which was due to end on 1st July, 1997. It also delays the reintroduction of 1988 Local Government Act CCT activities and white collar CCT for one year. The Statutory Instruments were laid before Parliament on 10th June, 1997 and are due to come into effect on 1st July 1997. Beyond 1st July, 1997 there will be no legal obligation to expose services to competitive tendering. The new timetable for the re-introduction of CCT is set out at Appendix 2 and commences with the 1980 Act work on 1st July 1998. The government have announced that exemptions from the re-introduction of CCT can be granted at November, 1997 to authorities which demonstrate progress towards compliance with the Best Value Regime (BVR). Details of the new scheme are expected to be released by the Scottish Office by 4th July.

2. Scottish Office Circular 16/97

The principal points of the Circular are as follows:

- The primary legislation which governs CCT will remain in place, but suspended.
- The introduction of CCT to new services is delayed by one year.
- The introduction of CCT to Professional Services (legal services, construction and property, services, personnel services, Information Technology and Financial Services) is delayed by one year.
- The introduction of CCT for Housing Management is delayed by one year.
- The introduction of CCT to vehicle management is delayed by one year.
- The reintroduction of 1988 Act CCT is delayed by one year.
- The moratorium on 1980 Act CCT is extended by one year.

3. Current Position

Appendix 3 lists the current status of the CCT process across the defined activities for both the 1980 and 1988 Acts. All 1980 Act work has been subject to CCT. Contracts awarded to date have been won in house. A formal decision on the Roads Maintenance contract is due on 25th June. In relation to the 1988 Act defined activities, no invitations to tender have been issued and consequently, according to the terms of the Circular, the Council will not be regarded by the Secretary of State as having commenced the "current" tendering exercise since no invitations to tender were due to have been sent out. The Professional Services and Housing Management were not yet required to issue public Prior Information Notices and will now not require to do so. As a result, it is recommended that no further action in terms of the present CCT timetable of preparations is taken. However, the following considerations should be noted:-
- considerable work and resources have already been input to the CCT process in relation to detailed service specifications and cost analyses. This output specification and unit-cost work should continue as it may be, in due course, a requirement of the Best Value Regime scheme.
- There will continue to be a statutory requirement on the Council to provide value for money [VFM], which is subject to audit scrutiny, and this will continue to be monitored.
- The transparency conditions set out in SODD Circular 41/96, which require the Council to supply certain manpower information periodically to the Scottish Office, remain in force and their observance will continue to be ensured.

4. Best Value Regime[BVR]

The proposed Best Value Regime is intended to replace CCT. Whilst details have yet to be announced, the Circular indicates that the new scheme will have the following key elements:
- Good management practices - strategic and service planning, budgetary and financial control.
- Planning for improvement - with an emphasis on quality improvement, cost reduction and greater efficiency.
- Tools for improvement - including a significant amount of competition.
- Measuring Performance - by meaningful data.
- 3-year forward budget planning within realistic expenditure expectations
Exemption from CCT on a continued basis needs to be earned. This will necessitate a proactive approach and a positive response by the Council. North Lanarkshire Council should be a model authority in respect of the Best Value Regime scheme and will need to be able to demonstrate this to the Secretary of State in November, 1997. In view of the requirement for a significant amount of competition, one element would be to put all capital works to tender as from 1st July, 1997 in accordance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders on the basis that this would be subject to periodic review. Further details of the Best Value Regime scheme are expected on the 4th July and a fuller report will be submitted to the Committee.

To assist his decisions on compliance with BVR the Secretary of State has requested details of 1980 and 1988 Act CCT contracts in relation to:
- a list of invitations to tender where these have been made,
- the results of tendering exercises already carried out in the current round.

The Scottish Office has requested a response by 19th June, 1997 and the Committee is asked to homologate the reply at Appendix 4 already forwarded to the Scottish Office in view of the necessity for prompt action in relation to Best Value Regime matters.

5. Recommendations
It is recommended that:

a] This report be noted.
b] That the Committee agree to put all capital works out to tender from 1st July, 1997 subject to periodic review.
c] The response to the Scottish Office at Appendix 4 be homologated.

S.Darby
Chief Executive

Local Government Access To Information Act

For further information on this report contact Mike McKeever, Senior Policy Planning Officer on extension 2348
SODD Circular 16/97

Chief Executive
Scottish Local Authorities

Copy to Firemasters
Clerk to the Joint Fire Boards
Clerk to the Joint Police Boards
Clerk to the Joint Valuation Boards

6 June 1997

Dear Chief Executive

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (EXEMPTION FROM COMPETITION) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT ORDER 1997
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1988 (COMPETITION) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 1997
BEST VALUE

1. This Circular

a. provides copies of the Statutory Instruments which defer the reintroduction of Compulsory Competitive Tendering (CCT);

b. offers further information on the Secretary of State’s approach to the development of a Best Value regime;

c. seeks information from councils on current tendering rounds.

2. As you will know, the Secretary of State announced his general approach to CCT on 27 May, after a meeting with COSLA representatives. The reintroduction of CCT is suspended while the essential elements of a Best Value regime are developed, and authorities will be able to secure continued exemption from CCT if they demonstrate significant progress towards those elements. In the meantime, the Secretary of State has made clear that he expects councils to take a responsible attitude to tenders received in current tendering rounds.
exercises, bearing in mind their statutory obligations on value for money, which are subject to audit scrutiny. For the avoidance of doubt, the Secretary of State regards the current tendering exercises as those on which invitations to tender should by now have been issued to meet the inherited CCT reintroduction timetable.

Regulations

3. I now attach typescript copies of the following Statutory Instruments:

- The Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 (Competition) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1997
- The Local Government (Exemption from Competition) (Scotland) Amendment Order 1997
- The Local Government Act 1988 (Competition) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1997

These Statutory Instruments have now been made and are being laid before Parliament. Printed copies will be sent to you as soon as they are available. A further Statutory Instrument - The Local Government Act 1988 (Competition) (Defined Activities) (Scotland) Amendment Order 1997 - will be made and laid before Parliament as soon as practicable. This Order will amend the start date for the works contracts (as opposed to functional work) of those activities which have been added to the list of Defined Activities in section 2(2) of the Local Government Act 1988, that is professional services, housing management, security services and vehicle management. It is the Government’s intention that the works contract start date in these Regulations will be 1 April 2000.

The Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 (Competition) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1997

4. These Regulations extend the moratorium on 1980 Act CCT. Under the Regulations, 1980 Act CCT will only apply to jobs over £500,000 in value. The transparency conditions (see Circular SODD 41/96) remain in force. These Regulations revoke the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 (Competition) (Scotland) Regulations 1996 (SI 1996/2935) which provided for the reintroduction of 1980 Act CCT. They further amend the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 (Competition) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations (SI 1995/677) which brought the moratorium into force in 1995, to ensure the applicability in the future. They revoke the requirement to put out small jobs below £25,000 to CCT.

The Local Government (Exemption from Competition) (Scotland) Amendment Order 1997

5. This Order delays the reintroduction in Scotland of 1988 Act CCT for a year. Under the Order 1988 Act CCT is delayed and will now commence between 1 July 1998 and 1 July 1999. This Order amends the Local Government (Exemption from Competition) (Scotland) Order 1995 (SI 1995/678) which laid down individual dates for individual services within
The Local Government Act 1988 (Competition) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1997

6. These Regulations delay the introduction of CCT to new services. They amend the timetable laid down in the Local Government Act 1988 (Competition) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1997. These Regulations only relate to functional work. Regulations on works contracts CCT are, as noted above, being prepared.

7. These Regulations delay the introduction of CCT to professional services (legal services, construction and property services, IT and IS services, personnel services and financial services). Services will still be required to be let in 3 tranches. The revised dates are:

- for the first third: 1 April 1999
- for the second third: 1 October 1999
- for the final third: 1 April 2000

The Regulations also delay the introduction of CCT for housing management so that the requirement is for 30% to be let by 1 April 1999 and the remaining 70% by 1 April 2000.

8. These Regulations also delay the introduction of CCT for vehicle management by 12 months. The new dates are aligned with the new dates for vehicle maintenance and are laid out in Annex A. These Regulations remove the timetable by which authorities must subject their security services to CCT. Authorities will therefore not be required to put their security services out to CCT.

Best Value

9. The Statutory Instruments outlined above will suspend the planned reintroduction of 1980 and 1988 Act CCT for a further year. This additional suspension is designed to allow time to develop an alternative Best Value system. A Task Force of officials drawn from The Scottish Office, COSLA and the Accounts Commission is tasked with making a report on progress in developing the Best Value framework to the formal meeting between the Secretary of State and COSLA on 4 July. The report will set out the key elements which will form the basis of an alternative system to CCT for delivering Best Value in local authority services. An alternative system is likely to have the following key elements:

- good management practices - strategic and service planning, budgetary and financial control;
- planning for improvement - Best Value is linked to continuous improvement with an emphasis on quality improvement, cost reduction and greater efficiency;
- tools for improvement - how management tools, especially a significant degree of competition sensibly applied, might deliver Best Value;
measuring performance - by producing robust, consistent and meaningful data;

• 3 year forward budget planning within realistic expenditure expectations.

10. Once the framework for the Best Value system is in place we will ask councils to assess themselves against it and prepare plans for improvement in those areas where they do not comply with the framework. The Task Force will be developing criteria against which the compliance or otherwise of an authority can be assessed. In around November 1997, the Secretary of State will be able to allow further exemption from CCT to authorities which have demonstrated significant progress with the key elements of the framework. Those authorities who do not comply with the framework will have to reintroduce CCT. To help inform the Secretary of State’s judgement on compliance, I would be grateful if you could inform us what 1980 and 1988 Act CCT contracts you have issued invitations to tender for and the results of the tendering exercises. We are looking particularly here at contracts with 1 July start or decision dates, but would also welcome a full list of tender invitations which you have issued. I would welcome an initial response on this point by 19 June. To save effort in explaining the details, we would be happy to have copies of the relevant committee papers if this is convenient.

11. Compliance with the framework will be an important goal for local authorities. While not wishing to prejudge the work of the Task Force, the Secretary of State made it clear that competition, sensibly applied, is likely to be a key component of compliance. An important indication of an authority’s views on competition will be provided by their actions in fulfilling the current tendering rounds for 1980 and 1988 Act CCT. Authorities who have, or who should have, made an invitation to tender are expected to follow the tendering process to its conclusion. Authorities who fail to bring to a responsible conclusion a tendering process which is underway, or should have been to meet the requirements of the previous timetable, are unlikely to be able to demonstrate sufficient progress against the key elements of a Best Value regime to allow the Secretary of State to grant continued exemption from CCT.

Yours faithfully,

J D GALLAGHER

J D GALLAGHER
### EXEMPTION END DATES FOR 1988 BLUE COLLAR SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Collection of Refuse</th>
<th>Cleaning of Buildings</th>
<th>Other Cleaning</th>
<th>Catering for purposes of Schools and Welfare</th>
<th>Other Catering</th>
<th>Maintenance of Ground</th>
<th>Repair and Maintenance of Vehicles</th>
<th>Managing Sports and Leisure Facilities</th>
<th>Managing Vehicles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**ANNEX**
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<tr>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Collection of Refuse</th>
<th>Cleaning of Buildings</th>
<th>Other Cleaning</th>
<th>Catering for purposes of Schools and Welfare</th>
<th>Other Catering</th>
<th>Maintenance of Ground</th>
<th>Repair and Maintenance of Vehicles</th>
<th>Managing Sports and Leisure Facilities</th>
<th>Managing Vehicles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
The Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 (Competition) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1997

Made

Laid before Parliament

Coming into force

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by sections 7(1), (2), (4)(a) and (b), (5) and (6), 9(3) and (4) and 23(1) of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980(a) and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

(a) 1980 c.65; section 7(1) was amended by the Local Government Act 1988 (c.9), Schedule 6, paragraph 2; section 9(4) was amended by the Local Government Act 1988, Schedule 6, paragraph 3(2) to (4) and the Local Government Act 1992 (c.19), Schedule 1, paragraph 2(2); and section 23(1) was amended by the Local Government Act 1992, Schedule 1, paragraph 9.
Citation, commencement and interpretation

1. (1) These Regulations may be cited as the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 (Competition) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1997 and shall come into force on 30th June 1997.

(2) In these Regulations, “the principal Regulations” means the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 (Competition) (Scotland) Regulations 1995(a).

Amendment of principal Regulations

2. For regulations 7 and 8 of the principal Regulations, there shall be substituted the following regulation:

“7. A local authority or development body may not, unless they have first complied with the conditions specified in section 9(4) of the Act, as well as with the terms of section 9(2), undertake functional work (other than emergency work) which is a job involving works of construction where the estimated cost of that job, which is attributable to works of construction, exceeds £500,000.”.

3. In regulation 9 of the principal Regulations—

(a) in paragraph (2B)(c)—

(i) for the words “a relevant date and on or before the next relevant date”, there shall be substituted the words “the sixteenth day of a particular month (“the relevant date”) and on or before the sixteenth day of the next month”; and

(ii) for the words “first of those relevant dates”, there shall be substituted the words “relevant date”;

(b) paragraph (2C) shall be deleted; and

(c) in paragraph (3)(a), the words “or which is a job to which regulation 7(b) above applies” shall be deleted.

Revocations

4. The following provisions are hereby revoked:—

(a) the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 (Competition) (Scotland) Regulations 1996(a); and

(b) in the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 (Competition) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1996(b), regulations 2, 3 and 4(b)(ii).

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Scottish Office

St Andrew’s House, Edinburgh

June 1997

(a) S.I. 1996/2935.
(b) S.I. 1996/2936.

04 06 97 1572 3
EXPLANATORY NOTE
(This note is not part of the Regulations)

The Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 makes provision as to compulsory competition tendering ("CCT") in respect of certain construction and maintenance work undertaken by local authorities and development bodies. The Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 (Competition) (Scotland) Regulations 1995 ("the 1995 Regulations") have, since 31st March 1995, applied 1980 Act CCT in Scotland only to jobs over £500,000 in value. The 1995 Regulations would, in terms of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 (Competition) (Scotland) Regulations 1996 ("the 1996 Regulations"), have been repealed and replaced as at 1st July 1997. These Regulations revoke the 1996 Regulations before they come into force and make consequential amendments to the 1995 Regulations so as to make them of continuing application.
The Local Government (Exemption from Competition) (Scotland) Amendment Order 1997

Made

Laid before Parliament

Coming into force

June 1997

June 1997

30th June 1997

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by sections 2(10) and 15(5) and (7) of the Local Government Act 1988(a), and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Order:

...
Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.— (1) This Order may be cited as the Local Government (Exemption from Competition) (Scotland) Amendment Order 1997 and shall come into force on 30th June 1997.

(2) In this Order, "the principal Order" means the Local Government (Exemption from Competition) (Scotland) Order 1995(a).

Amendment of principal Order

2. In article 7(2) of the principal Order, for “1998” there shall be substituted “1999”.

3. In columns 2 to 9 of Schedule 2 to the principal Order—

(a) for “1997” wherever it appears, there shall be substituted “1998”; and

(b) for “1998” wherever it appears, there shall be substituted “1999”.

St Andrew's House,
Edinburgh
June 1997

[Signature]
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Scottish Office

(a)S.I. 1995/678.
04 06 97 1575 2
EXPLANATORY NOTE
(This note is not part of the Order)

The Local Government (Exemption from Competition) (Scotland) Order 1995 ("the principal Order") modified the application of Part I of the Local Government Act 1988 ("the 1988 Act") in the period from 31st March 1995 to 31st December 2000. One of the effects of the principal Order was to suspend compulsory competitive tendering under the 1988 Act in Scotland from 31st March 1995 until "the exemption end date", different such end dates being set for different authorities and different activities.

This Order amends the principal Order by substituting new exemption end dates. In each case, the new exemption end date is one year after the date previously set.
The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by sections 6(3) and 15(6) and (7) of the Local Government Act 1988(a) and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

(a) 1988 c.9; section 6(3) was amended by the Local Government Act 1992 (c.19), Schedule 1, paragraph 12.
Citation, commencement and interpretation

1. — (1) These Regulations may be cited as the Local Government Act 1988 (Competition) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1997 and shall come into force on 30th June 1997.

(2) In these Regulations, “the principal Regulations” means the Local Government Act 1988 (Competition) (Scotland) Regulations 1997(a).

Amendment of principal Regulations

2. In regulation 4 of the principal Regulations—

(a) in paragraph (1), for “1999” there shall be substituted “2000”; and

(b) in paragraph (2), for “1998” there shall be substituted “1999”.

3. Regulation 5 of the principal Regulations shall be deleted.

4. In regulation 6 of the principal Regulations—

(a) in paragraph (1), for “1st October 1999” there shall be substituted “1st April 2000”;

(b) in paragraph (2), for “1st October 1998 to 31st March 1999” there shall be substituted “1st April 1999 to 30th September 1999”; and

(c) in paragraph (3), for “1st April 1999 to 30th September 1999” there shall be substituted “1st October 1999 to 31st March 2000”.

(a)S.I. 1997/197.

04 06 97 1579
5. In column 2 of Schedule 6 to the principal Regulations—

(a) for “1997” wherever it appears, there shall be substituted “1998”; and

(b) for “1998” wherever it appears, there shall be substituted “1999”.

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Scottish Office

St Andrew’s House,
Edinburgh

\( \text{\textcopyright} \text{June 1997} \)
EXPLANATORY NOTE
(This note is not part of the Regulations)

The Local Government Act 1988 (Competition) (Scotland) Regulations 1997 ("the principal Regulations") make provision as to the introduction in Scotland of compulsory competitive tendering ("CCT") in respect of functional work falling within certain activities which are defined activities for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1988. These Regulations amend the principal Regulations mainly so as to delay the introduction of CCT for 6 months for professional services and for 12 months for housing management and vehicle management. In addition, regulation 5 of the principal Regulations (which provides for the introduction of CCT as regards functional work falling within security work) is revoked.
### APPENDIX 2

**REVISED CCT TIMETABLE [AS PER SODD CIRCULAR 16/97]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1980 ACT WORK</th>
<th>NEW START DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ROADS MAINTENANCE</td>
<td>1.7.1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROPERTY MAINTENANCE</td>
<td>1.7.1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOUSING MAINTENANCE</td>
<td>1.7.1998</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>1988 ACT WORK</th>
<th>NEW START DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GROUNDS MAINTENANCE</td>
<td>1.7.1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUILDING CLEANING</td>
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<td>VEHICLE MAINTENANCE</td>
<td>1.10.1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STREET CLEANING</td>
<td>1.1.1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>REFUSE COLLECTION</td>
<td>1.5.1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATERING [WELFARE, SCHOOLS AND OTHER]</td>
<td>1.7.1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEISURE MANAGEMENT</td>
<td>1.11.1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>VEHICLE MANAGEMENT</td>
<td>1.10.1998</td>
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**WHITE COLLAR**

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<tr>
<th>WHITE COLLAR</th>
<th>NEW START DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>LEGAL SERVICES</td>
<td>1.4.1999 [1ST OF 3 TRANCHES]</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL SERVICES</td>
<td>1.4.1999 [1ST OF 3 TRANCHES]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>1.4.1999 [1ST OF 3 TRANCHES]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERSONNEL SERVICES</td>
<td>1.4.1999 [1ST OF 3 TRANCHES]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSTRUCTION AND PROPERTY SERVICES</td>
<td>1.4.1999 [1ST OF 3 TRANCHES]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSING MANAGEMENT</td>
<td>1.4.1999 [30%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.4.2000 [70%]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


1980 ACT

CONTRACT

Housing maintenance[5 YEARS]

Roads Maintenance[5 YEARS]

Property Maintenance[5 YEARS]

Solid Fuel / Gas Maintenance[5 YEARS]

STAGE REACHED

Contract awarded to NLC on 3.4.97 following competitive tendering.

Contract to be awarded on 25.6.97 following competitive tendering [Only one tender received].

Contract awarded to NLC on 14.5.97 following competitive tendering.

1] Subject to the provision of a satisfactory performance bond by no later than mid-day on 2nd June, 1997, the contract for the servicing and repair of all gas and solid fuel units awarded to Peter Craig and Son on 21.5.97.

2] In the event that a satisfactory Performance Bond was not provided by the due date and time, the servicing and repair of all gas and solid fuel units be assigned to North Lanarkshire Council.

3] A satisfactory Performance Bond not having been received, contract awarded as at point 2 above.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTRACT</th>
<th>STAGE REACHED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grounds Maintenance</td>
<td>Invitation to Tender not due and not issued by 1.7.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Cleaning</td>
<td>Invitation to Tender not due and not issued by 1.7.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Maintenance</td>
<td>Invitation to Tender not due and not issued by 1.7.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Cleaning</td>
<td>Invitation to Tender not due and not issued by 1.7.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refuse Collection</td>
<td>Invitation to Tender not due and not issued by 1.7.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catering[Schools]</td>
<td>Invitation to Tender not due and not issued by 1.7.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catering[Welfare]</td>
<td>Invitation to Tender not due and not issued by 1.7.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catering[Other]</td>
<td>Invitation to Tender not due and not issued by 1.7.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure Management</td>
<td>Invitation to Tender not due and not issued by 1.7.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Management</td>
<td>De Minimis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 4

LETTER TO SCOTTISH OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO CIRCULAR 16/97
Dear Mr Gallagher

SODD Circular 16/97

I refer to your letter of 6th June, 1997, and circular 16/97 in relation to Compulsory Competitive Tendering and proposals for the Best Value Regime.

The development of 'Best Value' as a replacement for Compulsory Competitive Tendering as the principle vehicle by which Councils ensure the delivery of Value for Money services to their communities is to be welcomed. North Lanarkshire Council aims to be a model Authority in its demonstration and provision of 'Best Value' and is confident of its capability of rising to the challenge.

The information which you have requested is attached as an Annex to this letter. As you will see, all 1980 Act work has been exposed to Compulsory Competitive Tendering under the Act and contracts have been, or in the case of roads maintenance, are about to be awarded accordingly. In the case of the 1988 Act work the 'invitation to tender' stage has not yet been reached and consequently, invitations have not been issued in respect of any of the 1988 Act defined activities.

I trust you will find the attached information helpful, but should you require any further details or explanation, please let me know.

Assistant Chief Executive (Policy)