

CONFIDENTIAL



MS

Minister

PA

10 DOWNING STREET

Secretary of State
for Employment,
Department of Employment,
Caxton House,
Tothill Street,
London, SW1.

2 July 1982

Dear Secretary of State,

YOUNG WORKERS SCHEME

As you will recall, when the Young Workers Scheme was being developed in your Department, it was decided to exclude domestic servants from the list of those eligible. It was thought that the Government would be vulnerable to the accusation that we were subsidising the servants of the rich.

I think, however, there are good reasons for reconsidering. First, the unemployment prospects are somewhat more bleak than they appeared a year ago, and the urgency to improve them has increased. Secondly, I think it is possible to show that the vast majority of domestic servants are not employed by the rich at all; there are helps for working mothers, assistants to handicapped and aged people, and perhaps, among youths, gardeners, drivers and general handymen. Thirdly, I suspect there would be little dead weight in domestic servants, and I think it is likely that there would be little substitution, except for "black economy workers", and Philipinos etc. I suspect there are very few young people at present employed as domestic servants, but no doubt your Department could provide the appropriate statistics so we could make a judgement.

If, as you suggested yesterday, you are considering applying the YWS to post-YOP youths and girls, it may be politically possible to extend the YWS at the same time to domestic servants. The amendment extending to domestic servants would then have its maximum impact in 1984.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely
A. H. ...

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