

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

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Telephone 3014938 3022 01-218-2216

9th June 1981

Dear Prime Minister,

Tom Trenchard wrote to you on 27 April 1981 giving the back-ground to the Ministry of Defence's examination of the levels of Boarding School Allowance for members of the Armed Forces and enclosing a draft letter to Tony Marlow who had raised the subject with you. You wrote accordingly to Tony Marlow on 28 April.

In Tom Trenchard's letter he said that any decisions on Boarding School Allowance would have to be taken in conjunction with the CSD. We have discussed the subject with Barney Hayhoe and we have both decided that the time is not ripe for making any changes. On the one hand, there are no strong grounds for increasing the size of the allowance; and, on the other, the climate is not right for introducing a parental contribution which would affect only those using the less expensive schools.

I am writing therefore to tell you that we propose to make no changes to the scheme for the time being. The terms of your letter to Tony Marlow are such that there is no need, I think, to write to him again.

I am copying this letter to Barney Hayhoe.

PETER BLAKER

yours wer,

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP Prime Minister 10 Dowing Street



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