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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph MP
Secretary of State
Department of Education and Science
Elizabeth House
York Road
London SE1 7PH

16 April 1982

L. Kiaz

DRAFT PAPER FOR EXPENDITURE STEERING GROUP - EDUCATION

Thank you for your letter of 8 April.

with MCS?

I am grateful for your assurances about the primacy of planning in cash and the need to ensure that local authorities do not assume that we are committed to some underlying level of provision. I am glad that your officials will make these points clear in the course of the Steering Group's discussions. As you know the Prime Minister attached particular importance to this issue. Incidentally, I do not myself see the connection you suggest between this issue and the quite separate question of the exercise on long-term expenditure prospects.

Since you wrote our officials have considered further revisions to the draft paper. These go some considerable way to meet my anxieties. I am therefore prepared to agree that a paper should be circulated in the terms now agreed.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

L. Brittan

LEON BRITTAN