

cc. DM HL.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 December 1981

Dear Mr. Haskel

Thank you for your letter of 4 December about the Jobs Express and recent lobby of Parliament where concern was expressed about the current youth employment situation. You asked what the Government intends to do. First, we must be clear that the only way more jobs are going to be available for people of all ages is through economic recovery. Our policies are designed to achieve this by containing public spending, cutting inflation and creating a sound basis for growth. I believe we are now seeing the signs that economic conditions are improving, although I accept that the level of unemployment, including youth unemployment, is not likely to fall very quickly.

Accordingly, as you know, the Government has maintained and vastly expanded the special employment measures for young people so that they are better prepared for today's difficult employment conditions, and will be better able to take full advantage of the opportunities tomorrow will offer. Norman Tebbit announced in the House on Tuesday 15 December our plans to develop real training courses lasting a year for young entrants to work, that will effectively combine some work experience with very much more off-the-job learning than is presently provided in the Youth Opportunities Programme. Indeed, such a fundamental shift emphasis cannot be accomplished right away, so the present programme will be developed towards the new objectives in 1982/3 with the aim of introducing the new programme fully in 1983.

/ The details

The details are given in the White Paper that Norman Tebbit has published, and I enclose a copy for your information. I think you will see how seriously the Government takes the present employment situation of young people, and how it is determined to invest considerable resources in helping them achieve a better start in working life.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Leslie Huckfield, Esq., M.P.

LESLIE HUCKFIELD MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

4th December 1981

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Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister

Reps.

JOBS EXPRESS AND LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT ON MONDAY, 30th NOVEMBER

I understand that you received a delegation of young people who participated in the above when they came to London on Monday.

At the House of Commons I saw Alison Walling of 46 Old Hinckley Road, Nuneaton, and Gary Dumbleby of 2 Winchester Avenue, Weddington, Nuneaton.

They stressed to me the hopelessness of the employment situation facing youngsters in Nuneaton, Bedworth and Coventry generally.

You will no doubt already have been given details of both the MSC and the CBI forecasts, which show that in less than two years' time, some two-thirds of school leavers will find it impossible to obtain employment. The situation after that seems set to deteriorate further.

The young people who came on the Jobs Express, and my constituents generally, want to know what your Government intends to do to improve this situation and I shall look forward to hearing from you as a matter of urgency.

With many thanks.

Leslie D. Huckfield

LESLIE HUCKFIELD MP

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*Type to PM & submit
cc LG
MAD*

Our Ref: PO 8769/1981

Michael Pattison Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

15 December 1981

Dear Mike

... As requested in your note of 8 December to Richard Dykes I attach a draft for the Prime Minister in response to a letter from Leslie Huckfield MP about the JobExpress and lobby of Parliament on 30 November.

The draft has been cleared at Ministerial level.

*Yours
Marie Fahey*

MISS M C FAHEY
Private Secretary

PO 8769/81

DRAFT REPLY FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO THE LETTER OF
4 DECEMBER FROM LESLIE HUCKFIELD MP

Thank you for your letter of 4 December about the Jobs Express and recent lobby of Parliament where concern was expressed about the current youth employment situation. You asked what the Government intends to do. First, we must be clear that the only way more jobs are going to be available for people of all ages is through economic recovery. Our policies are designed to achieve this by containing public spending, cutting inflation and creating a sound basis for growth. I believe we are now seeing the signs that economic conditions are improving, although I accept that the level of unemployment, including youth unemployment, is not likely to fall very quickly.

Accordingly, as you know, the Government has maintained and vastly expanded the special employment measures for young people so that they are better prepared for today's difficult employment conditions, and will be better able to take full advantages of the opportunities tomorrow will offer. Norman Tebbit announced in the House on Tuesday 15^{December}, our plans to develop real training courses lasting a year for young entrants to work, that will effectively combine some work experience with very much more off-the-job learning than is presently provided in the Youth Opportunities Programme. Indeed, such a fundamental shift emphasis cannot be accomplished right away, so the present programme will be developed towards the new objectives in 1982/3 with the aim of introducing the new programme fully in 1983.

The details are given in the White Paper that Norman Tebbit has published, and I enclose a copy for your information. I think you will see how seriously the Government takes the present employment situation of young people, and how it is determined to invest considerable resources in helping them achieve a better start in working life.

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8 December 1981

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Leslie Huckfield, MP.

I should be grateful if you would let me have a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Mr. Huckfield, to reach me by Tuesday 15 December.

MAP

Richard Dykes, Esq.,
Department of Employment

file SIC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 December 1981

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 4 December.

I will place this before her at once and you will be sent a reply as soon as possible.

MAP

Leslie Huckfield, Esq., M.P.