



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

CABINET OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AS

Tel No: 233 3299
7471

4 November 1985

The Rt Hon Keith Joseph Bt MP
Secretary of State for Education and
Science
Elizabeth House
York Road
LONDON
SE1 7PH

Prime Minister 2

To write.

JLW

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D Keith.

REVIEW OF STUDENT SUPPORT

Thank you for the copy of your letter of 31 October to Nigel Lawson.

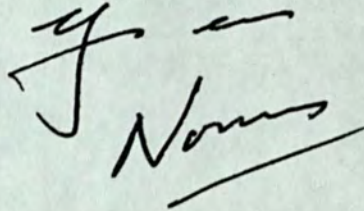
I am not sure that you have rightly deduced from colleagues' comments, in response to your earlier letter, that we should wind up the review in the rather peremptory way suggested in your PQ; for example, David Young supported my view that the review should be carried forward, but without a consultative paper or other formal procedure.

In the light of this, I wonder if you might care to reply to the PQ in a different way. May I suggest something like:

"No. The review will continue for the present, however, and be open to views from the public, with the proviso that the Government have considered and rejected the option of a system of student loans, and the further options will be considered against the Government's necessary objective to limit the cost of student support, which remains so much higher in the UK than in many other countries."

This may serve in part to defuse the criticism, which you foresaw in your letter of 25 September, if the review were simply abandoned at this stage.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Quintin Hailsham, Leon Brittan, Nigel Lawson, George Younger, Nick Edwards, Tom King, David Young and John Wakeham, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Tebbit', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

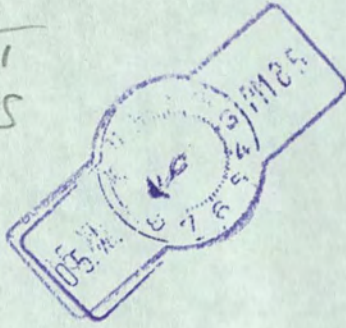
NORMAN TEBBIT

EDUCATION

STUDENT
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