



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

CCB6

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20<sup>th</sup> May 1986

The Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph Bt MP  
Secretary of State for Education and  
Science  
Department of Education and Science  
Elizabeth House  
York Road  
SE1

D Keith,

HMI REPORT

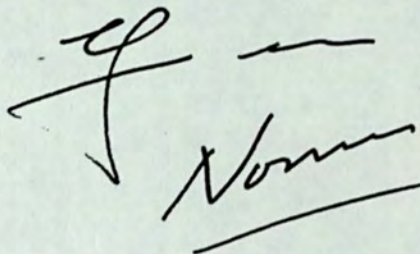
Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 19 May to Willie Whitelaw. In the time available, I have not had a chance to read the report itself as carefully as I would wish, but I have read the summary.

You will wish to judge for yourself whether the press notice is an entirely fair representation of the report, both in its content, and in the emphasis. But I confess that I do not immediately see why the content of paragraphs 14-17 of the report are deemed the most important; indeed, in the wake of the teacher's dispute, the comments in the paragraph 18 and 19 seemed to me more appropriately to strike the balance required.

On the basis of those paragraphs, one might well take the view that there is, indeed, much that is wrong in the current education service, but that it is only in limited measure a matter of resources; it is also crucially about the quality of teachers, and their commitment and motivation, and also about getting the priorities right in managing the service, on which many LEAs have palpably failed their responsibilities.

It is most important that a balanced and accurate message of this kind comes across from this report. The existing headline, "schools stretched for money and resources" is not even a fair summary of the summary, let alone of the report.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of the Cabinet, David Swinton and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Tebbit', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

NORMAN TEBBIT

