

CONFIDENTIAL

Social
Security

Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NA

Telephone Direct Line 01-213 6400

Switchboard 01-213 3000

Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP

GTN Code 213

Secretary of State

Department of Health and Social Security

Alexander Fleming House

Elephant and Castle

LONDON SE1

20 October 1980

DE/DHSS JOINT RAYNER SCRUTINY ON DELIVERY OF BENEFITS TO THE UNEMPLOYED

As you know, we expect final copies of the somewhat sensitive Rayner Report on delivery of benefits to the unemployed towards the end of November. The report is already in draft and just in case something leaks, despite the precautions being taken, I think it would be useful for us to agree a common line that we might take if challenged to comment on some alleged recommendations.

In such an event I suggest we say that the report is not due to be presented to Ministers until the end of November. Ministers will then require time in which to consider the recommendations and arrange for appropriate consultation on them with those concerned. We do not therefore intend to comment on the report or any of its recommendations before that stage of formal consultation is reached, except to express the hope that the outcome will be to simplify the system for the benefit of both claimants and staff.

If asked whether the report itself will be published, we should say that this is a complex scrutiny which means there are likely to be difficulties about publishing the report itself, but we can expect a document based on the report - possibly an action plan - to be publicly available.

I am sending copies of this letter for information to the Prime Minister, other members of the Cabinet, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Derek Rayner.

20 OCT 1980

12 1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11

