



cc: CST
FST
MST C
MST L
Sir D Wass
Mr Ryrie
Mr Byatt
Mr Middleton
Mr Battishill
Mr Kemp
Mr C D Butler
Mr Corlett
Mrs Gilmore
Mr Unwin
Miss Brown
Mrs Case
Mr Cropper

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

31st October 1980

Andrew Hardman Esq.
Department of Employment

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter of 27 October on the text of the Green Paper on the Taxation of Husband and Wife.

On your Secretary of State's general point, it is helpful to know the importance he attaches to the publication of background papers and the Chancellor will bear in mind the point about securing adequate publicity for them.

I gather that Revenue officials have been in touch with yours about the drafting change suggested to the Foreword, and that your Officials now agree that as it is factually accurate to say that "today about half of all married women are in paid employment" there is no need for this sentence to be changed (particularly as the formulation suggested in your letter might be misleading). As I understand it, it is now agreed that the only change necessary is to remove the words "or looking for work" from the previous sentence, and the text of the Foreword will be revised accordingly.

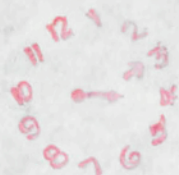
I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries of E Committee, Don Brereton (DHSS), David Wright (Cabinet Office), Richard Prescott (Paymaster General's Office), Gerry Spence (CPRS) and Nick Sanders (No.10).

Yours ever,

Richard Tolkien.

R.I. TOLKIEN
Private Secretary

31 OCT 1990





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27 October 1980

Don Brereton

GREEN PAPER ON TAXATION OF HUSBAND AND WIFE

My Secretary of State has seen the draft of the Green Paper enclosed with your letter of 16 October and in general is content that it should be published in that form.

The Department's view is that the taxation changes discussed in the Green Paper are likely to have a marginal effect only on women's participation in the labour force and the Secretary of State considers it important to leave no room for any doubt or misunderstanding about this. He is therefore disappointed that it has not been considered appropriate to incorporate within the Green Paper references to the wider considerations which can exercise a powerful influence on women's decisions about work, to which attention has previously been drawn by officials. However, he is encouraged to learn that it is intended to publish, in addition to the Green Paper, complementary background papers which will give a fuller account of those wider considerations. He thinks it is important that those papers should be made available at the same time as or very soon after the publication of the Green Paper and that they receive appropriate publicity.

On a point of detail, it is not correct to say in the Foreword that "about half of all married women are in paid employment". Officials here have already indicated to Inland Revenue that it should read "about half of all married women are in the labour force".

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries of E Committee, Don Brereton (DHSS) David Wright (Cabinet Office), Richard Prescott (Pay Master General's Office), Gerry Spence (CPRS), and Nick Sanders (No 10).

for Seal

ANDREW HARDMAN
Private Secretary

27 OCT 1980

