



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AT

13 March 1981

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✓ MJD
Mr Patrick,

✓
Thank you for your letter of 6 March about the Rayner Scrutiny of benefits for the unemployed.

I accept that the likelihood is that the necessary legislation will be included in the Social Security Bill, and I do not want to seem too pedantic about the terms in which the reference to legislation is made in the report. There is, however, little doubt that the formula which you now propose would be widely taken as a commitment to bring forward legislation early next Session. I would much prefer to avoid this at a time when we are only just beginning to consider the legislative programme for 1981/82 as a whole. Could we settle on something to the effect that the administrative arrangements should be completed by early 1982, but that legislation will be required before any scheme can be implemented?

I am copying this letter to the recipients of our earlier exchanges.

Francis Pym
J.P.

FRANCIS PYM

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
Secretary of State For Social Services
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LONDON SE1

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