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*Handwritten signature*

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The Rt Hon Francis Pym MC MP  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
Privy Council Office  
Whitehall  
London  
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19 March 1981

*Dear Francis,*

DHSS/DE SCRUTINY OF BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED

Thank you for your letter of 13 March about this Rayner Scrutiny. I did not see your letter until the following day, but I had, of course, taken account of your earlier comments on the legislation in the way I had proposed. This seemed to respect the realities of the Parliamentary timetable and its management, while at the same time recognising our intention - which the Prime Minister has again strongly supported - to make early progress on those parts of the report that lend themselves to early action.

The report, with our response, is being published this Friday (20 March). I am afraid that by the time we received your letter it was too late to incorporate any further amendments to the text.

I am sorry I am unable to meet you fully on this point but I do think that the text as it stands is a sufficient safeguard of the legislative position. There is of course no way that we can make the full administrative arrangements without the legislation to implement the changes.

I am copying this to Willie Whitelaw and to the recipients of my earlier letter to you.

*Yours*  
*Pat*