



CABINET OFFICE

From the Minister of State

Lord Gowrie

MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL OFFICE

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Paul Murphy Esq
Private Secretary to the Minister of State
for Social Security
Department of Health and Social Security
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Dear Paul,

THE DHSS NEWCASTLE SHIFT-WORKING DISPUTE

Lord Gowrie was glad to have the latest report on this dispute contained in your Minister's letter of 22 August to the Chancellor. He agrees that we must hope that the making of a direct offer to those on strike will result in enough of them returning to work to carry out the uprating programme.

For the rest Lord Gowrie has only one question. If the direct approach is not successful and your department seeks to recruit new staff would you envisage taking them on as casuals or on a permanent basis - and if the latter what happens to the strikers? There are issues here which need to be thought through and no doubt Ministerial colleagues will be consulted again before major decisions are taken.

Copies of this letter go to David Barclay (No 10), Margaret O'Mara (Chancellor's Office), David Normington (DEm), the Private Secretaries to members of E(PSP) and to Richard Hatfield.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Brown.

MRS M E BROWN
Private Secretary