



*cc: ceo*  
*To await*  
*DoE comments.*  
*B/F*  
*DLN*  
*20/10*

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

PRIME MINISTER

**MIDDAY SUPERVISION**

I broadly agree with the proposals Keith Joseph makes about additional resources for midday supervision in his minute of 21 October, but there are two additional points that I think should be considered.

First, it would be helpful if a start could be made on schemes before next April. Some authorities are already planning to introduce schemes from the start of next term but we should encourage more to do so. There is some leeway within this year's  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent ceiling on Education Support Grants and I would be prepared to consider any request that Keith might make to support £10m to £15m expenditure on midday supervision payments in this financial year.

Second, despite what is said in paragraph 10 of the note by officials, I think that we should look more closely at the case for imposing a statutory duty on local education authorities to provide midday supervision. Unless we do so some Labour controlled local authorities, under pressure from the teachers' unions, may not bother to establish schemes and we will not achieve our objective of depriving the unions of this particular form of disruptive activity.

I am copying this minute to E(PSP) members, the Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the Lord President of the Council, the Leader of the House, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*N.L.*

N.L.

25 October 1985



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