



From the Minister of State for Industry

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THE HON PETER MORRISON MP

The Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham
Secretary of State for
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Pauline ...

*1. J.R.
2. N.B.P.M.*

6 March 1986

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UK REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 1986-90 : JOB DEFICIENCY FORECASTS

It is a requirement of the main regulation governing the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) (EEC No 1787/84) that member States must communicate Regional Development Programmes (RDPs) to the European Commission. The Commission are required to examine RDPs and consult the Regional Policy Committee which declares its opinion on the Programmes. They are also required to examine each ERDF application for consistency with the appropriate RDP.

The RDPs must take account of the Commission's recommendation on the subject of 23 May 1979 which says, inter alia, that Member States should provide at least "quantified forecasts of job deficits in each region" in respect of the period covered by the programmes. The period should coincide with that chosen for the Commission's medium term economic programmes - the last published (the fifth) covered the period 1981-1985. A sixth medium-term economic programme covering the period 1986-90 is to be published shortly. The Commission will therefore want the new RDP to cover the period 1986-90 and to include the job deficit forecasts.

Projections of labour supply and unemployment by region up to 1986 were provided in the last UK RDP, after Ministerial agreement in

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December 1982, and we now have to provide the forecasts for the new UK RDP. I should therefore be grateful if your officials would let mine have the necessary forecasts covering the period from 1986 to 1990.

The information will come into the public domain as a complete copy of the RDP will be placed in the House of Commons library, and copies will be sent to Local Authority Associations. It would also be very difficult to refuse any specific requests for information in the RDP - eg in response to Parliamentary Questions.

In any case the document will be available to the Regional Policy Directorate of the Commission and the Regional Policy Committee of Officials of Member States, and we could hardly succeed in keeping it confidential. Moreover on past experience once the document has had a favourable opinion by the Regional Policy Committee Commission, officials will make it available on request to MEPs, and to universities and similar bodies.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other members of E(A), the Secretaries of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Environment, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Morrison', with a large flourish above the name.

PETER MORRISON

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