

old

Mr Powell (10 Downing St) *JRC*



I expect that this point will be taken up in the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's reply

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*Df Williamson*  
30/4/86

Qz 05016

30 April 1986

R W Renwick Esq. CMG  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
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LONDON  
SW1.

*LESC*

*Dear Mr. -*

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND ALLOCATIONS IN 1986

*with copy*

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Employment wrote to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary on 29 April (with a copy to the Prime Minister) suggesting a line to take on the European Social Fund allocations in 1986. We know that, after a good year in 1985 (23 per cent of Social Fund allocations for the United Kingdom) the 16.1 per cent allocation in 1986 is not good for us and we have already been actively looking at ways of doing better next year. We do nevertheless remain the second largest beneficiary with about £270 million. The presentation proposed in the letter of 29 April, however, does risk shooting ourselves in the foot, ie no credit at home for a substantial Community contribution and a public dispute with the Commission which will make our task of doing better next year more difficult. I suggest that the third sentence of the proposed text might be on the lines of:

"The United Kingdom is the second largest beneficiary from this Fund and will receive about £270 million in 1986. It will help towards a number of important schemes of benefit to youth training and employment. It is still not, however, in our view a fully adequate response to the difficulties the United Kingdom is facing. We continue to press the Commission on this."

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Df Williamson*

D F WILLIAMSON

bc Mr Holroyd  
Mr Jay  
Mr Powell (No 10)



