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From the Private Secretary

19 May 1986

*Gazette sent
to Question
JP 19/5*

TRAINING PROVIDED BY THE ARMED FORCES

The Prime Minister was grateful to see the article in this month's issue of the Employment Gazette about training provided by the Armed Forces. She thought it comprehensive and useful.

DAVID NORGROVE

Iain Mackinnon, Esq.,
Department of Employment.

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cc PC
(w/out enc.)

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9 May 1986

David Norgrove Esq.,
Private Secretary,
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Prime Minister +

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Dear David,

TRAINING PROVIDED BY THE ARMED FORCES

You wrote to Simon Routh in Lord Trefgarne's office on 20 November last year to say that the Prime Minister thought it would be helpful to draw attention to the benefits for the wider economy of the training provided by the armed services. An article has been written by MoD and was published in the latest Employment Gazette this week. I enclose a copy.

It is a long and detailed article, but the main points are that the armed services spent £1.3 billion (8% of the Defence budget) in 1984/85 on training, that at any one time, 65,000 servicemen and women are being trained, and that most of these men and women will, in time, return to civilian life with their skills.

Yours,

Iain Mackinnon

Iain Mackinnon
Private Secretary

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May 7, 1986

EVALUATION OF THE YOUNG WORKERS SCHEME

Since its introduction in 1982, the Young Workers Scheme has helped employers to give jobs and a start in working life to nearly 440,000 young people, an evaluation of the scheme concludes.

Featured in the May issue of Employment Gazette*, the evaluation relates how YWS has enabled 16 and 17 year old job-seekers to become more competitive in the labour market, by encouraging employers to recruit young people into permanent full-time jobs at wages which reflect their lack of training and relative inexperience.

Young workers in induced jobs (those created by the scheme) comprised 27 per cent of the numbers supported by March 1985. Young workers in deadweight jobs (those who would have been employed anyway, by the same firm) were 63 per cent of the numbers supported, and young workers in substitution jobs (those which without the expenditure on YWS would have been filled by others) were 10 per cent.

The figures are based upon an interview survey in 1985, complemented by results from a continuous postal survey.

Induced jobs are more likely to appear in establishments employing less than 50 workers, particularly in those with less than 10 workers and many are in construction and other services, and tend to be in partnerships and self-proprietorships rather than limited companies. The supported young workers have often had some experience of YTS, particularly where YTS experience has been gained with the same employer.

Since YWS was introduced, deadweight has fallen, induced jobs have risen and substitution has remained relatively constant.

* Employment Gazette, May 1986; HMSO price £3.25

A significant number of jobs induced by YWS persist beyond the year of support, and may therefore continue to reduce unemployment in the year following the year of support.

Training provided by the Armed Forces

Training servicemen and women cost some £1.3 billion, nearly 8 per cent of the Defence Budget in 1984/85, with 65,000 personnel involved, either as staff or students.

An article in the May issue of Employment Gazette examines the extent and quality of the training provided by the Armed Forces for their own needs. It also describes how it provides an outflow of skilled personnel into civilian life.

Training and education opportunities are substantial; the number of branches, trades and employment groups on offer to the potential recruit runs into many hundreds. The Royal Navy, for example, offers four officer branches and 48 trades. In the Army alone there are no less than 214 different trades; and the RAF offers 15 branches/specialisations for officer entrants and 124 trades for airmen.

The Armed Forces in 1983/84 recruited 37,000 personnel, 34,000 men and 3,000 women.

Other articles in this issue include:

Labour Force Survey for 1985: Preliminary Results

Revised employment estimates for 1983 to 1985

Pensioner Price Indices: Annual Revision of the Weights

NOTE TO EDITORS

1. The Young Workers Scheme ended on March 31, 1986. Over 90,000 new jobs, which would not otherwise have existed, have been created during the life of the scheme.
2. The scheme has now been replaced by the New Workers Scheme which is designed to help 18-20 year olds find work.