



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE YORK ROAD LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-934 9000

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The Rt Hon John MacGregor OBE MP
 Chief Secretary of the Treasury
 Parliament Street
 LONDON SW1P 3AG

11 June 1986

Mr. Mm.

TVEI EXTENSION

- Prime Minister 2*
A number of colleagues, including Mr Tebbit, have written in favour of an early extension of TVEI. No need to read. DW 11/6
1. I am writing to confirm my strong support for the proposals in David Young's letter of 30 May for an extension of TVEI from September 1987.
 2. TVEI is a key element in our policies for raising standards set out in the White Paper "Better Schools". It supports the drive for greater relevance in the curriculum and for better teaching and is helping our effort to get more pupils, particularly girls, adequately prepared for a technological world. The pilot projects show that we have found an effective way of securing change. This approach has wide support throughout the education service. I am in no doubt that we must extend TVEI to profit from the momentum we have generated. The extension will also be compelling evidence of the Government's commitment to seeing standards raised in schools and to relating education more directly to adult and working life.
 3. I agree with David that we must settle funding and timing quickly. The level of financial support which David now suggests offers a soundly based prospect of a successful and cost-effective national scheme. It amounts to an average of £30,000 per school - which compares with £80,000 in the pilot phase. We can just defend that difference but anything less than £30,000 would not in my judgment suffice to support the requirements and criteria which ought to inform the TVEI extension; LEAs would either have to refuse it, or compromise on standards.
 4. An early announcement in the proposed White Paper is in my view essential. If the LEAs are to prepare and implement plans to extend the lessons of the TVEI progressively over as many as possible of their secondary schools and FE colleges, they will need adequate time. We were criticised over the original

Continued...

introduction of TVEI for having allowed too little time for LEAs to do their planning. HMI has confirmed that inadequate advance preparation led to some ill-considered provision; we do not want to repeat this mistake. To delay the announcement until the autumn puts at risk a good and orderly start in September. We shall get less value for money as a result.

5. Adequate staff development will be vital to the success of the new scheme. We shall shortly be discussing in E(LA) my proposals for the level of local authority expenditure on in-service training and the amount of specific grant that should be available in 1987-88. Our new arrangements for in-service training must take account of our commitment to training in the subject areas and teaching approaches at which the TVEI is aimed.

6. I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Secretary of State for Employment, the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales.

Herbert

Kenneth

Education
TUE 1
PT 2

