

010

CC BG



SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

Prime Minister 2

You may like to
please at the draft
White Paper, attached.

DLF
20/6.

RESTRICTED

The Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham
Secretary of State for Employment
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW1 9NF

20 June 1986

Dear Secretary of State

mf

WHITE PAPER "PULLING TOGETHER - EDUCATION AND TRAINING"

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 16 June inviting agreement to the publication of the White Paper "Pulling Together - Education and Training". I welcome the proposals in the White Paper, both generally and insofar as they apply to Scotland. In particular, as I said in my letter to you of 11 June, I support the extension of TVEI, which has worked well in Scotland and fits in with our curricular reforms. I continue to foresee some adverse reaction to the compensating reduction in YTS expenditure but I agree that this is acceptable in view of the considerable benefits of the TVEI extension.

I must add a note of caution however. While I fully agree with the statement of the Government's objectives and with the curricular principles outlined in the White Paper, we are currently very far in Scotland from delivering the curricular changes themselves. We hope that the negotiations which will follow the report of the Main Inquiry into teachers' pay and conditions in Scotland will result in a settlement which will renew the commitment of Scottish teachers to curricular change. But this will not be achieved without difficulty; and meanwhile I have learnt that the Educational Institute of Scotland voted at its annual conference on 6 June against further co-operation with the TVEI pilot scheme, which they had hitherto been prepared to support under certain conditions. Teachers may welcome the availability of TVEI funding for all schools; but in Scottish circumstances, if the EIS do in the event translate their conference decision into active opposition to TVEI, few schools are likely to oppose the union line and this is bound to affect seriously the development of schemes.

This development is likely to reinforce doubts within Scotland about the extension of the role of the MSC in education and it will no doubt be argued that these same additional resources should rather be made available to education authorities to fund our curricular reforms on a broader basis. As I said in my letter of 11 June, it is essential that the consistency between TVEI objectives for the curriculum and those of education departments and the partnership between the education departments and the MSC in managing TVEI should be stressed in the presentation of the White Paper: It may be helpful in that respect to add a further sentence to paragraph 3.8 of the draft, on the following lines:

"In Scotland, the arrangements will take particular account of the need to ensure full harmony with Standard Grade and Action Plan developments".

I agree that we should co-ordinate publicity arrangements with care. I would intend to make a separate written statement in the Commons on the day of publication and to issue a separate Press Release in Scotland, highlighting the particular Scottish considerations. I take it that in the light of my responsibilities for both MSC and for education in Scotland, I will be listed as one of the Ministers presenting the White Paper to Parliament.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord President, Chancellor of the Duchy, Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Trade and Industry and Wales, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the Chief Whip and the Leader of the House of Lords.

Yours sincerely
Malcolm Rifkind

MALCOLM RIFKIND

Approved by the Secretary
of State and signed in his
absence

EDUCATION
TUEI
PTZ

