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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 June 1986

Dear Mr Turner

PROPOSED NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The Prime Minister has discussed with your Secretary of State today his minute of 9 June which set out the arrangements for a Council to oversee Vocational Qualifications.

The Prime Minister expressed reservations about the proposal, in terms of its scale and the new bureaucracy it will create. She was however prepared to agree to it, noting that the Government's contribution to the Council's costs will continue only during the setting up period and its initial three years. She believes it will be important in any further development of the Council that the individual character of major examining bodies like the City and Guilds or the Royal Society of Arts should not be lost.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Joan MacNaughton (Lord President's Office), Rob Smith (Department of Education and Science), Robert Gordon (Scottish Office), Neil Ward (Northern Ireland Office), Colin Williams (Welsh Office), John Mogg (Department of Trade and Industry), Jill Rutter (Chief Secretary's Office), Andrew Lansley (Office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster), Paul Thomas (Office of Arts and Libraries) and to Michael Stark.

Yours sincerely  
Amanda Ross

PP (DAVID NORRGROVE)

John Turner, Esq.,  
Department of Employment.

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