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Rob Smith Esq
Private Secretary to
The Rt Hon Kenneth Baker MP
Secretary of State for Education and Science
Elizabeth House
York Street
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Prime Minister 2
To see. The statement
on the curriculum mentioned in
paragraph 7 will also be put in
to you tonight if it arrives in
time. JHL 30/6.

Dear Rob,

**WHITE PAPER ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING POLICIES - ORAL
STATEMENT - 2 JULY**

I attach the draft of the Oral Statement which my Secretary of State and the Paymaster-General hope to make in the Lords and Commons respectively on 2 July. It closely follows the terms of the drafts discussed at official level so I hope it will be generally acceptable. If there are any comments could they please be phoned here by 5pm on Tuesday 1 July.

There is a possibility that Oscar de Ville will be able to confirm his acceptance of the NCVQ Chairmanship before Wednesday. (He is having to consult his directors formally now). If so, Lord Young would like to announce that also. Our officials will be in touch about that.

I am copying this letter to David Norgrove at No 10 and private secretaries to the Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chancellor of the Duchy, the Secretaries of State for Trade and Industry, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the Chief Secretary and the Chief Whip.

Yours sincerely,

Iain Mackinnon

Iain Mackinnon
Private Secretary

RESTRICTED TILL 2nd JULY

WHITE PAPER - DRAFT STATEMENT

1 I would like to make a statement about major Government decisions on vocational education and training announced in the White Paper published this afternoon. They are about the national extension of the Technical and Vocational Initiative and the reform of vocational qualifications.

2 TVEI was launched on a pilot basis by my Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister in November 1982. In chosen schools the Government has through the MSC made additional funds available to local authorities to develop new ways of increasing the vocational content of the curriculum and offer pupils of all abilities between the ages of 14 and 18 more work related learning.

3 By the end of this year there are likely to be almost 100 education authorities in England, Wales and Scotland taking advantage of the Initiative; which will be covering over 600 schools and colleges and helping nearly 50,000 pupils.

4 As the pilots have developed so too has appreciation of the way in which TVEI has been able to enrich the curriculum. It has opened up new opportunities for more young people of all abilities to see how school can be made more relevant to adult and working life.

5 We want to keep up the momentum to extend the benefit to many more pupils. We have decided that the MSC should be asked to administer the extension of TVEI from a pilot to a national scheme beginning in the Autumn of 1987.

6 The Government is making a substantial financial commitment to this improvement in our schools. We are setting aside sums which build up from £12 million in 1987-88 to £41 million in 1988-89 and to £84 million in 1989-90. The average annual expenditure over the next 10 years or so will be about £90 million. These amounts will be found from the provision we

had planned for young people within the MSC's budget.

7 So that TVEI proposals are consistent with our overall policy of improving the school curriculum, my Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Education and Science is publishing separately today a statement of the curricular criteria which extension proposals must meet.

8 The extension of the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative on a national basis is a major advance. But reforming and developing the curriculum in schools is not enough. We also need to improve the vocational qualifications system to encourage more people, young and old, to improve their skills when they have left school. For that reason we are also announcing a new framework for vocational qualifications in England and Wales.

9 Last year we set up a Working Group under the Chairmanship of Mr H G de Ville to review the pattern of vocational qualifications in England and Wales. The Group's report is published in May.

10 Concluding that the present system was complex and incomplete the Review Group recommended that a new system of qualifications should be set up within a framework to be called the National Vocational Qualification. It urged that a National Council for Vocational Qualifications should also be established to work with the existing bodies to set up that framework. The Government accepts these recommendations.

11 The NCVQ will negotiate with existing bodies to accredit those of their qualifications which meet standards set by the Council for assessing competence and skill as well as knowledge and understanding. The individual qualifications will retain the identity of the issuing body but will have enhanced status because of national accreditation.

12 The Council will be set up in the autumn of this year and will be asked to have the NVQ framework in England and Wales and Northern Ireland in place by 1991. The Government will appoint the Council. We will provide pump-priming funding but the aim will be that after three years the Council will become self-sufficient, from income received from bodies whose

qualifications it accredits.

13 The recommendations of the report have been given a generally warm reception and we believe that they will lead to a framework of vocational qualifications, which will be widely understood and respected by individuals and by employers. As a result we hope that this will lead people to invest more time and money in training.

14 For young people moving from school to adult working life it is vitally important that we have a good system of vocational education and training policies. All young people must be given the opportunity to leave full time education or training with relevant qualifications and build on them throughout their working life. The extension of the Technical Vocational Education Initiative and the setting up of the new framework of National Vocational Qualifications are major advances which will strongly reinforce our existing policies.

15 Today's announcement is good news for our young people and good news for society as a whole. For we will all profit from a better skilled and qualified workforce equipped to respond to the changing demands of a rapidly changing world.

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT

30 June 1986