



SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND

Lord Young of Graffham
Secretary of State for
Employment
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CCBG
NIBEN

30 June 1986

Dear Secretary of State,

DRAFT WHITE PAPER ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING
"PULLING TOGETHER - EDUCATION AND TRAINING"

Thank you for the copy of your letter of 16 June to Kenneth Baker.

The draft White Paper covers very important ground, and I support its general tenor and content. Although only the provision relating to the Review of Vocational Qualifications apply directly to Northern Ireland, its aims and objectives are equally relevant here and there are existing initiatives comparable to TVEI and the development of YTS, on which, subject to the identification of the necessary resources, we can build. I am content with the section on Northern Ireland which the draft White Paper on Vocational Education and Training contains.

You were kind enough to invite me or one of my colleagues to join you on the platform on Wednesday 2 July when you publicly present the White Paper. I imagine the attention will concentrate on the extension of TVEI and on the decision to establish the NCVQ. The former does not apply here and I do not imagine there will be great call for anyone to say anything distinctive about Northern Ireland in relation to the NCVQ. In the circumstances I do not think we need add to your platform party. I will however be giving further thought to a local press launch later where I can go into some detail about the proposed action so far as Northern Ireland is concerned. In the meantime I attach some very short lines to take on the Northern Ireland aspects of the Paper.

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/ I am copying this to the Prime Minister, the Lord President, the Chancellor of the Duchy, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Secretary of State for Wales, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the Chief Whip, and the Chief Whip of the House of Lords and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours Sincerely
Edward
(Private Secretary)

TK

(approved by the Secretary of
of State and signed in his
absence in Northern Ireland).

JLD

E.R.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING WHITE PAPER - PRESS CONFERENCE 2 JULY

Speaking Notes for the Education and Training White Paper - Press Conference 2 July:

Review of Vocational Qualifications

Northern Ireland has always been linked with the Vocational Qualifications system in Great Britain. This will continue, and I welcome the decision of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to participate fully in the work of the National Council for Vocational Qualifications.

TVEI

As you know, the remit of the MSC does not extend to Northern Ireland and while TVEI is a specifically GB initiative, I understand Northern Ireland is developing a number of its own initiatives in full-time education which meet the aims of TVEI developments here.

Youth Training Scheme

Since it was launched in 1982 the Northern Ireland Youth Training Programme has offered 2 years of training to minimum age school leavers. Through its own separate and distinctive arrangements the Programme provides a solid foundation for further development in terms of scope and effectiveness, and it would be developed to maximise the employer contributions to youth training in Northern Ireland.

EDUCATION

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