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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

19 February 1988

Dear Tom,

REORGANISATION OF SCHOOLS IN ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE

The Prime Minister discussed with your Secretary of State today your letter of 8 February about this reorganisation of schools case, on which she has an outstanding reply to Mr. Rost.

Your Secretary of State explained to the Prime Minister the background to the case which had led to the view that a Minister had indeed taken the decision on 22 June. Your Secretary of State went on to say that he could not agree to the inclusion of a reference in the Prime Minister's letter to Mr. Rost which drew attention to the provisions of the Education Reform Bill which allowed schools to opt out of local authority control. Such a reference could unnecessarily complicate the achievement of any aspirations which the parents might have to make use of those provisions in the Bill.

The Prime Minister said that she would like the letter to Mr. Rost to be redrafted to make clear the regrets about the outcome of this case. I should be grateful if you could let me have a revised draft by close of play on Monday.

*Nigel Wicks*

N.L. WICKS

T.B. Jeffery, Esq.,  
Department of Education and Science.