

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING OF E(EP): 28 JULY

There are two items on the agenda:

- (i) national curriculum for maths and science - papers in folder one;
- (ii) provisions in the Education Scotland Bill - papers in folder two.

Item 1: Maths and Science National Curriculum

There are three circulated papers. Papers 16 and 17 are the detailed reports of the two Working Groups and I suggest you do not need to go through these thick documents. You can focus on E(EP)(88)15 which sets out Mr. Baker's proposals. You will want to go through the annexes to this paper, and in particular Annex C which provides the draft letter Mr. Baker proposes to send to the National Curriculum Council.

The Cabinet Office brief provides a way through the issues. It (quite rightly) advises against going through the proposals in detail; but suggests you stand back and consider whether the emerging shape of the proposals is broadly right. It suggests a need:

- (i) to simplify;
- (ii) to get rid of jargon;
- (iii) to make more comprehensible;
- (iv) to be more precise

Brian Griffiths' comments are on very similar lines, and he concludes that the draft letter to the NCC needs to be strengthened.

Item 2: Scotland

The papers for this item are much more manageable - E(EP)(88)18 gives Mr. Rifkind's proposals, and the Cabinet Office brief pulls out the key issues. Brian Griffiths has not commented on this item.

Mr. Rifkind has met your wish to be forthcoming on opting out and assessment. The outstanding issues relate to whether there should be a power of imposition on teachers' pay, and the composition of the management side.

*Rec.*

PAUL GRAY

27 July 1988