



Ref. A082/0314

- 1, Mr ~~Baker~~
- 2, Prime Minister

PRIME MINISTER

Yes

Agree to
Sir Roberts proposal?JA
29/11Wider Parental Choice

I understand that you would now like to give consideration in a wider group of Ministers to the ideas and proposals in the minute which the Secretary of State for Education and Science sent to you on 5th November.

2. The proposals would have financial and manpower implications; implications for local government; and parliamentary and political implications. With these considerations in mind I recommend a MISC group under your chairmanship, and with the following membership.

Chancellor of the Exchequer
 Secretary of State for Education and Science
 Secretary of State for the Environment
 Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
 Secretary of State for Industry
 Secretary of State for Scotland
 Secretary of State for Wales
 Lord President
 Lord Privy Seal
 Secretary of State for Employment
 Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Paymaster General
 Chief Secretary, Treasury

3. I think that Mr Sparrow and Mr Mount should receive papers, and should be invited to attend meetings.

4. The Secretariat would be supplied by the Cabinet Office; I propose that, in addition to myself, it should include Mr Gregson and Mr Hilary.



5. If you are content with these proposals, I will set the group up and arrange for the Secretary of State's memoranda to be circulated. Would you like to have a first meeting before Christmas, if we can arrange that?

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

29th November 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

Education

Policy



COMPTROLLER

MR. HATFIELD
CABINET OFFICE

The Prime Minister has now seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 29 November about the means by which the proposals of the Secretary of State for Education and Science for wider parental choice should be considered. Mrs Thatcher has agreed to Sir Robert's proposals and would like to have the first meeting of the new group before Christmas if that can be arranged.

TIM FLESHER

30 November 1982

File

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MR. HATFIELD

CABINET OFFICE

We spoke yesterday about the way in which the proposals by the Secretary of State for Education and Science on Wider Parental Choice should be considered by colleagues and I indicated to you the Prime Minister's preliminary thinking on this point.

BIF
The Prime Minister would be grateful for Sir Robert Armstrong's advice on the next steps.

25 November 1982