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~~cc. NO.~~

SCOTTISH OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt Hon Norman Tebbit MP  
Secretary of State  
Department of Employment  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
LONDON  
SW1N 9NA

29 June 1983

Dear Secretary of State.

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE

with MSC  
E(A) this morning agreed to Scottish participation in the extension of TVEI on an appropriate basis; and you will be announcing on Thursday the way in which MSC have been asked to proceed and the start of consultations with the local authorities. Before we proceed with consultations in Scotland we will need to settle the details of how MSC involvement fits in with the different educational arrangements and developments here in Scotland.

I have already indicated in my announcements on the Action Plan for 16-18s in January and on implementation of the reforms for education of 14-16s in April that we are taking new measures to improve technical and vocational education in these initiatives. In Scotland the appropriate role for MSC will be to support additional effort and trials of courses by education authorities which will form part of our national development programmes. Selective piloting leading to full national introduction of courses is a major advantage of our 14-16 programme and this approach is to enable us to introduce some new course syllabuses. Additional effort is needed to bring further subjects into the later phases of the development programme and MSC support will greatly help. I do not propose to make any announcement or initiate consultations with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities until my officials have discussed the details more fully with MSC. Authorities in Scotland will be more likely to put forward proposals in TVEI if it is seen to emphasise technical and vocational requirements within our now established educational development programmes.

In any briefing for the press my officials will indicate that the Government is committed to improving technical and vocational education in Scotland and that any proposals will reflect the differences in educational arrangements and developments here. I will let you know, in the light of our discussions with MSC, the terms and timing of our consultations with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities. I will also want to indicate how we will be involving employers in our development of technical and vocational education.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister and other members of E(A).

20 JUN 1963

*Yours sincerely*

*J. Stewart (Miss)*

Approved by the Secretary of State  
and signed in his absence

Education: Proposals to establish  
Training Colleges 10/82

30 JUN 1983





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*[Handwritten mark]*

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The Rt Hon George Younger MP  
Secretary of State  
Scottish Office  
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LONDON  
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1 July 1983

*D. George.*

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Thank you for your letter of 29 June about Scottish participation in the extension of this Initiative.

I am glad to know the basis on which you will be going ahead with the proposed consultation of local authorities in Scotland and that you will keep me informed. I quite accept that you wish first to await the outcome of fuller discussion of the details with the MSC. As I said in earlier correspondence, my main concern is that MSC funds should be used to achieve specific targets under the Initiative and not to support existing education programmes which are the responsibility of Education Ministers. So it is important that Scotland's participation in the extension now proposed does represent genuine new development.

I very much hope that the MSC will feel able to come forward with specific proposals for the extension after their meeting on 28 July so that we may come to an early decision and announcement. It will be helpful if you have that in mind in the timing of your own consultations.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister and other members of E(A).

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Norman