

CONFIDENTIAL



Prime Minister *not apply*

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
House of Commons
LONDON SW1A 0AA

22 January 1985

Dear Patrick

with AT?

I have seen your minute of January 16 to The Prime Minister on possible members for the Widdicombe Committee.

I wonder whether the members you propose include anyone who has been sufficiently involved in recent trends to be aware of the extent of the abuses taking place.

It seems to me that there might be scope for someone nearer to the ground.

I have no overwhelmingly suitable proposals but I do have three individuals to suggest of whom admittedly only one is personally known to me -

Excellent

Ian Coultts is a former Norfolk Councillor, penetrating, down-to-earth and very robust. I know him.

Do not know with

Marvyn Moore - Conservative education spokesman in Sheffield, not known to me, but also said by Central Office to be very robust indeed.

Bert Moore - Conservative in Newcastle - said by Central Office to be a fighter.

It seems to me that one of these three might be more suitable than for instance Mrs Brigstocke who is certainly all that you say in your minute but is also slightly above this particular fray.

I am copying this letter to The Prime Minister.

If a woman is requisite I am told that an Anne Cleeham of Lancashire might be more appropriate. Lady Popplewell is perhaps too polite.

*James
Shaw*

22 JAN 1985

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