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Home Minister

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HOME OFFICE

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT



8 January 1982

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FAIR WAGES RESOLUTION

The Home Secretary has seen the correspondence on the question of abolishing the Fair Wages Resolution (FWR), and would like to raise a particular point concerning the proposed consultations with employers and employees associations.

As the Department of Employment note which was circulated to E Committee on 15 December 1980 points out, a number of statutes include provision for the determination of questions about terms and conditions of employment by reference to the Fair Wages Resolution. One such provision is in section 25 of the Broadcasting (Consolidation) Act 1981, which provides that:

"The wages paid by any programme contractor to persons employed by him ... and the conditions of employment ... shall, unless agreed upon by the programme contractor or any organisations representative of programme contractors and by organisations representative of the persons employed, be no less favourable to the persons employed than the wages which would be payable, and the conditions which would have to be observed, under a contract which complies with the requirements of any Resolution of the House of Commons for the time being in force applicable to contracts of Government Departments."

The DE note mentions other statutes, including the Films Act 1960.

The Home Secretary wonders whether, given that the abolition of the FWR would materially affect the statutory provisions under which certain employers and employees conduct their affairs, it would be appropriate to ensure that the employers' associations and unions concerned with these statutory provisions were specifically consulted about proposals to abolish the FWR at the earliest opportunity. The Home Secretary appreciates that this would complicate the consultation process, but feels that the point nevertheless deserves consideration, particularly if, as the Secretary of State for Industry has suggested, consultations should go rather wider than the CBI and the TUC.

Copies of this letter go to the Private Secretaries to the Members of E Committee and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

J B Shaw, Esq.

*C J Walters*  
C J WALTERS



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Prime Minister

Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NA

Telephone Direct Line 01-213 6400 GTN 213

Switchboard 01-213 3000

MS 15/1

C J Walters Esq  
Home Office  
Queen Anne's Gate  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

15 January 1982

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Dear Sir

## FAIR WAGES RESOLUTION

Thank you for your letter of 8 January 1982 about consultations with employers' and employees' associations on the future of the Fair Wages Resolution.

I can confirm that it is the intention of the Secretary of State to seek views on the issue from all parties known to have significant interest in the FWR; that would certainly include employers who were affected by the FWR's inclusion in various statutes. Views from the trade unions will be sought through their representative organisations, who will be asked to bring to the attention of their affiliates the Government's willingness to hear views expressed by individual unions if that is what they wish to do.

Copies of this letter go to the Private Secretaries to the members of 'E' Committee and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely  
J B Shaw

J B SHAW  
Principal Private  
Secretary