

# Department of Employment

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PRESS NOTICE

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## MORE PLACES FOR DISABLED ON YOUTH TRAINING SCHEME

More places are to be made available to disabled young people on the Government's £1bn Youth Training Scheme. Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, announced this while congratulating this year's "Fit for Work" Award winners in London today.

Since the launch of YTS earlier this year, disabled school leavers up to the age of 18 have been eligible. Now the Scheme will be open to disabled young people, who have stayed in full-time education, up to the age of 21. The Manpower Services Commission will now be amending the eligibility rules accordingly.

Mr King said: "I am delighted to be able to open up the great opportunities offered by the Youth Training Scheme to more of the disabled school leavers who have shown such enthusiasm for what it has to offer."

Mr King was speaking at a reception for employers who have won awards for their work in employing disabled people.

"The greatest assets of any employee are loyalty, enthusiasm and reliability. Employers of disabled people know how fully they can give of these qualities," he said.

"Attitude to work is vital and disabled people rarely fail in this respect. Of course disabled people face their own special problems, but more and more firms are now realising their merits as well, and are prepared to work with them to minimise the disadvantages. To help tackle the problem the Manpower Services Commission is introducing a new service for employers - the Disablement Advisory Service. This together with the Disablement Resettlement Service

makes a powerful team in encouraging employers to adopt positive policies towards disabled workers, and to give them advice on the various forms of assistance available. The award winners today have shown how these disadvantages can be overcome to the great benefit of their disabled employees and the great credit of themselves.

"They have shown beyond question that disability does not mean inability."

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

1 Further details of the award winners may be obtained from the Manpower Services Commission. (Press Office: 01-379-3344).

2 The MSC's 'Fit for Work' campaign, launched in 1979, with the full support of Government, the trade unions and industry, seeks to educate the public about the positive contributions which disabled people can make to the working life of the community.