

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SEI 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522

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Andrew Turnbull Esq Private Secretary 10 Downing Street

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10 May 1984

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Dear Andrew

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SOCIAL SECURITY REVIEWS: MEMBERSHIP

My Secretary of State is now ready to announce the membership of the three new social security policy review teams and to launch the consultation exercise on two of them.

In the light of the views you conveyed to me and further discussions Ministers here have had with a number of potential outside members, my Secretary of State has settled the composition of each team as follows:

Housing Benefit (Chairman, Mr Jeremy Rowe)

Mr Alan Blakemore (formerly Chief Executive of Croydon London Borough)

Mrs Rhea Martin, Lecturer in Law, Hatfield Polytechnic and Chairman of the Lord Chancellor's Standing Conference on Legal Services

Children and Young Persons (Chairman, Dr Rhodes Boyson)

Mrs Barbara Shenfield, Chairman of WRVS

Mr Tom Rogers, Director (Personnel and Europe) of Plesseys

Supplementary Benefit (Chairman, Mr Tony Newton)

Mr Robin Wendt, Chief Executive of Cheshire County Council and Member of the Social Security Advisory Committee

Mr Basil Collins of NABISCO.

Of the other names previously considered, Professor Ball withdrew as he did not feel it would be possible to give enough time to this

# E.R.

exercise. My Secretary of State also felt, on reflection, that, in view of Lord Vaizey's earlier ideas for work in this area, it would not be appropriate to use him just as a member of one of the reviews. He feels it might be better to make use of Lord Vaizey in the context of the central coordinating activity which will need to go on across the whole field being covered by the reviews.

We intend to announce details of membership in the course of next week, probably on Wednesday 16 May, by means of a written Parliamentary Answer. At the same time, we will be launching the public consultation exercise for the Children and Young Persons Review and the Supplementary Benefit Review. My Secretary of State will hold a press conference for this purpose on the afternoon of 16 May.

I am copying this letter to David Peretz (Chancellor's Office), John Gieve (Chief Secretary's Office), John Ballard (Department of Environment), David Normington (Department of Employment), Elizabeth Hodkinson (Department of Education and Science), Derek Hill (Northern Ireland Office), John Graham (Scottish Office), Colin Jones (Welsh Office), David Morris (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office), Murdo MacLean (Chief Whip's Office) and Richard Hatfield (Sir Robert Armstrong's Office).

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S A Godber Private Secretary Semmal on Health & Social Security Expenditure

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## 10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 May, 1984

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#### Social Security Reviews: Membership

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 10 May. She is content with the membership proposed for the Social Security Reviews. She has noted the capacity in which your Secretary of State is considering using Lord Vaizey.

I am copying this letter to David Peretz (H.M. Treasury), John Gieve (Chief Secretary's Office), John Ballard (Department of the Environment), David Normington (Department of Employment), Elizabeth Hodkinson (Department of Education and Science), Derek Hill (Northern Ireland Office), John Graham (Scottish Office), Colin Jones (Welsh Office), David Morris (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and Richard Hatfield (Sir Robert Armstrong's Office).

Your smeads Anow Turk

ANDREW TURNBULL

S. A. Godber, Esq., Department of Health and Social Security

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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SWIP 3AG

PS/Secretary of State for
Social Services
Department of Health & Social
Security
Alexander Fleming House
Elephant & Castle
LONDON
SEL 6BY

15 May 1984

Deal Steve,

SOCIAL SECURITY REVIEWS: MEMBERSHIP

We spoke about your letter to Andrew Turnbull of 10 May. The Chief Secretary has no objections to the two new names on the list of members of the review teams: Mrs Rhea Martin for housing benefit and Mr Basil Collins for supplementary benefit. He is also content that your Secretary of State should announce the full details of the membership on Wednesday 16 May.

I am copying this letter to Andrew Turnbull.

JOHN GIEVE

Private Secretary

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APPOINTMENTS - IN CONFIDENCE ( D WIVE Prince Minister @

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY to peep Love Vary's Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SEI 6BY free to do his our Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

John Gieve Esq Private Secretary to The Rt Hon Peter Rees QC MP Chief Secretary to the Treasury Treasury Chambers

Parliament Street LONDON SW1P 3AG

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April 1984

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SOCIAL SECURITY REVIEWS: MEMBERSHIP

Following my Secretary of State's statement on 2 April about the leadership of the three new social security policy reviews, Ministers here have interviewed a number of potential outside members to join the reviews.

On returning from America, my Secretary of State has therefore been able to firm up his views about the composition of each team as" follows:

Housing Benefit (Chairman, Mr Jeremy Rowe)

Mr Alan Blakemore: formerly Chief Executive of Croydon LB. Preferred to Harry Simpson who was mentioned earlier but is felt to be too closely identified with the SSAC's criticisms of this year's housing benefit changes.

Lord Vaizey: not yet approached by Ministers here, but I understand from John Redwood that he would be willing to take part.

Children and Young Persons (Chairman, Dr Rhodes Boyson)

Mrs Barbara Shenfield, Chairman of the WRVS.

Mr T P Rodgers, Director (Personnel and Europe) of Plesseys. A highly experienced businessman with previous Government committee experience. He has obtained the agreement of his Chairman to his appointment.

### Supplementary Benefit (Chairman, Mr Tony Newton)

Mr Robin Wendt, Chief Executive of Cheshire County Council, Member of SSAC and former DHSS civil servant with supplementary benefit experience. He has made it clear that he would serve as an independent voice, not a SSAC representative.

Professor Jim Ball, Chairman of Legal and General; he is due to finish as Principal of the London Business School in June. Having said he was willing to serve, he has now expressed doubts about whether he can find the time. My Secretary of State hopes to persuade him that he can.

Subject to resolving the positions of Lord Vaizey and Professor Ball, and to any comments the Chief Secretary might have, my Secretary of State hopes to be able to announce the composition of the review teams during next week. It would be useful, therefore, to have any reactions as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter to Andrew Turnbull.

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S A Godber Private Secretary Appointments In Confidence



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#### 10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 April 1984

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Social Security Reviews: Membership

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to John Gieve of 25 April. She wonders whether it would be right to appoint Lord Vaizey to the Committee reviewing the housing benefit as this might compromise the independence of the work he is himself undertaking into the social security system.

I am copying this letter to John Gieve (Chief Secretary to the Treasury's Office).

Andrew Turnbull

Steve Godber Esq Department of Health and Social Security

APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE

NOPM AT CC D. Witheth APPOINTMENTS-IN-CONFIDENCE Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SWIP 3AG May 1984 Steve 6. The PS/Secretary of State for Social Services Department of Health & Social Security Alexander Fleming House Elephant & Castle London SE1 6BY Dey Steve SOCIAL SECURITY REVIEWS: MEMBERSHIP Thank you for your letter of 25 April, which the Chief Secretary has seen. He has no objection to the proposal to invite Lord Vaizey to join the housing benefit team, if he is prepared to devote his time to this rather than the work which we understand he was proposing to do for publication. He is content also with the other names proposed. He has commented that it is important that Professor Ball should be prepared to commit sufficient time to the supplementary benefit reviews. I am copying this to Andrew Turnbull Var sincerely JSI. Gen JOHN GIEVE APPOINTMENTS-IN-CONFIDENCE

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