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*Davis*  
*NBPM, final agreement has been reached*  
*A*



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*NSEA file  
record:*

Your reference

Our reference

Date 9 July 1984

*I informed DES  
of our agreement*

*to the proposals in  
this note*

*Dr 9/7*

*Dear Tim,*

FINAL REPORT OF THE REVIEW GROUP ON THE YOUTH SERVICE (RGYS) - PROPOSED MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

David Barclay commented on the proposed Government response to the outstanding recommendations in this report, in his letter of 25 April to Elizabeth Hodkinson. Subsequently, agreement was reached by H Committee on the lines of the proposed response.

In view of the time which has elapsed since the RGYS report was published (October 1982) and the rejection of its main recommendation (for legislation), my Secretary of State would now like to make an oral statement in the House on Wednesday 11 July; that date has already been provisionally booked with the Leader of the House's Office. A written statement, as earlier envisaged, is now considered likely to be construed as a deliberate attempt to avoid criticism or debate. Hence it could well be exploited by the youth service lobby to discredit the Government's approach.

I now attach a copy of the proposed oral statement: its substance is essentially unaltered from the version circulated earlier (with my Secretary of State's letter of 18 April).

The Secretary of State would like this statement to be repeated by a Government spokesman in the House of Lords.

I should be grateful for your agreement to our proceeding along these lines.

Copies of this letter and draft statement go to the Private Secretaries of the Leader of the House, the Lord President of the Council, the Secretary of State for Wales, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the Chief Whip (Commons), the Chief Whip (Lords), the Secretary to the Cabinet and to the Chief Press Secretary, No.10.

*Yours sincerely,  
Alan Thompson*

A B THOMPSON  
Parliamentary Clerk

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## DRAFT ORAL STATEMENT ON REPORT OF THE REVIEW GROUP ON THE YOUTH SERVICE

With permission Mr Speaker, I should like to make a statement about the report of the Review Group on the Youth Service.

When this report - appropriately entitled 'Experience and Participation' - was published, I described it as a timely and far-reaching study of the ways in which the youth service was helping young people and said that it offered some important recommendations for the development of the Service. Decisions on certain of those recommendations have already been announced to the House. I turn now to decisions on the outstanding recommendations directed to central Government, to which I have given careful consideration in the light of the many comments received during consultation.

I accept the Review Group's recommendation that it would be helpful to the field for there to be a publicly known unit in my Department dealing with youth service matters, and I propose to identify such a unit.

In line with the Review Group's recommendations, grant-aid is being made available to voluntary organisations for experimental projects in managerial innovation in the youth service and for the training of part-time and volunteer staff in particular; the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services will be consulted about the allocation of these resources. As far as the Review Group's recommendations for grant-aid for regional and county voluntary organisations is concerned, the Department already grant-aids national voluntary youth organisations and I consider that it is primarily for these national organisations to support their regional and county bodies, as a number do now. On financial grounds, it has not been possible at the present time to accept the Review Group's recommendation for mandatory grants for students on youth work courses. I shall, however, continue to keep the important area of youth work training under careful review.

The Government has considered with great care the Review Group's recommendations on legislation, but does not consider that it would be appropriate to introduce new legislation relating to the youth service unless legislation dealing with the



whole statutory framework of post-school education were being proposed. This is not the case: as I told the House on 10 April I take the view that existing legislation for post-school education remains broadly adequate for its purpose. I further consider that existing legislation provides a similarly adequate basis for youth service provision. I do, however, recognise the need for additional guidance to the youth service particularly as regards the important areas of co-operation between the voluntary and local authority sectors and the need for effective management of available resources. I am consequently issuing for consultation, today, the draft of a circular setting out the Government's views.

Finally, I have also given careful consideration to the recommendation for a national body to offer advice on questions arising in the field of youth affairs. I have noted, particularly, the considerable support expressed in the report of the review of National Youth Bureau. In view of the range of activities currently undertaken by the youth service, I am persuaded that a role exists for a small advisory body capable of offering informed advice to me, to the Secretary of State for Wales, and to others with youth service responsibilities on the appropriate scale and direction of youth service activity - having regard to the available resources.

I accordingly propose to establish such a body within the next few months for an experimental period of 3 years in the first instance, subject to review at the end of that period. I shall appoint, in conjunction with my rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for Wales, individual members to this body in a personal capacity: in making choices for membership, I shall have regard to the broad range of interests in the youth service field and to advice I may receive on membership from those active within it.

By these arrangements the Government intends to develop further the youth service partnership, both at national and local levels, for the benefit of all young people.



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