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NSPM.

Robin Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
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8 August 1985

Dear Robin,

Thank you for your letter of 1 August conveying the Prime Minister's wishes about scrutinies of the Community Programme and YTS.

We certainly agree that we need to look at the Youth Training Scheme in rigorous "value for money" terms but think that 1986/7 would be too early for such a scrutiny of two year YTS. Full implementation of the two year scheme begins from next April but that, of course, means that recruits then will not complete their second year until 1988. A scrutiny in 1986/87 would not, therefore, be able to take account of any significant changes arising from the introduction of two year YTS. My Secretary of State will certainly discuss this further with Sir Robin Ibbs but, in the meantime, we think our priority should be developing value for money indicators for two year YTS which will enable us better to monitor performance from month to month and will, when the time comes for a scrutiny, enable it to be based on a sound statistical foundation.

As to the Community Programme we are as you know currently deeply involved in the major expansion announced by the Chancellor in the budget statement. However, my Secretary of State feels that there might be merit in having a scrutiny examination of the existing programme especially in the areas identified in your letter.

I will therefore, as you suggest, make arrangements for my Secretary of State to discuss the next steps with Sir Robin Ibbs.



Copies of this letter go to the Private Secretaries to the Chief Secretary, Chairman of the MSC, Sir Robin Ibbs and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,

David Normington.

D J NORMINGTON
Principal Private Secretary

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