

Prime Minister (2) cc Press Office

The HMI report will be published on Wednesday.  
This note covers the main points.

MR BARCLAY

DMB  
4/6

4 June 1984

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HMI REPORT ON EXPENDITURE AND PROVISION

1. The HMI report on expenditure and provision is traditionally a catalyst for criticism of our financial policies. This edition will be no exception, since HMI comment adversely upon:

- i. unsatisfactory work in one third of all observed lessons for junior and 11-16 year old classes (Para 16);
- ii. unsatisfactory staffing levels in about 15 LEAs for each type of school (paras 24 and 25);
- iii. inadequate supply of non-teaching staff in one seventh of the schools visited (para 35)
- iv. poor accommodation in one-quarter of the schools visited (para 36);
- v. deficient repair and decoration in nearly three-quarters of LEAs (para 37);
- vi. inadequate provision of books in one-fifth of primary lessons (para 39);
- vii. insufficient advisers in two-thirds of LEAs (para 49);
- viii. a lack of teachers in remedial work, English, Mathematics, Science, CDT and Business Studies (para 53);

2. The present report is, however, an improvement on its predecessors in one signal respect: it lays the blame for these deficiencies as much on mismanagement as upon lack of funds. HMI point out that:

- a. "good management - by LEAs, schools, colleges and individual teachers - helps to enhance the level and appropriateness of available resources and what can be achieved with them;" (para 14);
- b. "poor management not only affects teaching quality but also the level, appropriateness and effective use of available resources" (para 31);
- c. "poor management of the school or department or

both was considered to be adversely affecting the performance of almost one-quarter of the schools visited, with all types of school being equally affected" (para 55);

- d. "in nearly one-fifth of all schools visited, improved leadership by either heads, heads of department or both, was deemed necessary if the quality of work seen was to be improved or the curriculum was to be changed and developed" (para 56).

3. In addition to this message about management, the report provides a number of optimistic comments about resources, which go some way towards balancing the prophecies of doom. Quotable passages include the following:

- i. "in looking at the quality of what was taking place in class and lecture rooms throughout the system HMI judged most of it to be satisfactory or better" (para 7);
- ii. "overall, the levels of appropriate resources in schools and colleges were slightly improved in Autumn 1983 from those of the previous year, particularly with regard to the provision of teachers and books" (para 10);
- iii. "average secondary school ratios in individual LEAs ranged from 12.3:1 to 18.0:1" (para 25);
- iv. "the overall provision of consumable materials in primary, secondary and special schools was considered to be satisfactory or better in nine-tenths of LEAs" (para 42);
- v. "the LEA's provision for education is increasingly being supplemented by parental contributions of both cash and labour;" (para 51);
- vi. "the FHE system was, in general, reasonably well resourced" (para 68).

4. Line to take. If asked about the report, the Prime Minister could say something on these lines:

This year's HMI report on expenditure and provision reveals, as usual, that the enormous resources devoted by the taxpayer and the ratepayer to education are not being appropriately used in some places; it rightly stresses that the principle cure for this is better management, better leadership and more sensible matching of resources to needs; that is what the

Government's education policy is designed to bring about.

Educational expenditure does not necessarily equate with educational standards: the IEA spends 60% more per pupil than the national average, without achieving higher standards.

O. Letwin.

OLIVER LETWIN



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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

| June 1984

*Dear Willie,*

You may recall that HM Inspectorate produces each year a report on the effects of local authority expenditure policies on the education service. I recently received their report on the effects in 1983 and have arranged for it to be published on Wednesday 6 June.

I enclose a copy of the report for your information, together with a copy of the brief statement\* that I intend to issue to the press. You will see that the report this year explores a little further the complex of factors which affect the quality of education. The main emphasis, however, is still expenditure-related and, although HMI noted some slight improvements in the levels of appropriate resources in class and lecture rooms in Autumn 1983, there is a significant catalogue of deficiencies. We must therefore expect critical comment - albeit perhaps less strident than in previous years.

I am sending copies of this letter and the enclosures to the Prime Minister, George Younger, Nicholas Edwards, Patrick Jenkin and Peter Rees.

*Yours ever,*

*Ken*

Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw PC CH MC  
 Lord President of the Council  
 Privy Council Office  
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\* Statement to follow.

CONFIDENTIAL

EDUCATION SECRETARY COMMENTS ON HMI REPORT

The Education Secretary, Sir Keith Joseph, today announced the publication of the report by Her Majesty's Inspectors on the effects which local authority expenditure policies were having on the education service in England in the autumn of 1983. Commenting on the report, Sir Keith said:

"This year's report considers in greater depth than in previous years the complex of factors affecting the quality of education in schools and colleges. I hope that the full version will be widely read: here I pick out some of the main features.

HMI judged that the quality of most of what was taking place in class and lecture rooms throughout the system was satisfactory or better. The levels of appropriate resources in schools and colleges were slightly improved in the autumn of 1983 from those of the previous year.

The report notes however that there are continued grounds for concern about the wide variations in provision, that problems with accommodation and the maintenance and repair of school and college buildings remain and that the long term consequences of the deterioration in the capital stock of buildings are particularly worrying.

The clear message from the report is that, although schools and colleges were facing difficulties because of demographic

changes and constraints on expenditure, only some of them were grasping the opportunities which exist to improve the service they offer. More could do so given more effective management and a clearer perception of the needs of pupils and students.

The report lays particular emphasis on the need to improve the match between the qualifications and experience of teachers and the jobs they do. It points out that greater provision and take-up of in-service training opportunities could help here, assisting teachers to respond to changing demands in the classroom, lecture hall and workshop and to improve the overall quality of teaching. HMI sees the quality of teaching as paramount in its effect on the quality of education."