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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-928 9222

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Treasury
Parliament Street
London SW1P 3AG

5 November 1984

Dear Ned,

TEACHERS' PAY (ENGLAND AND WALES)

The Burnham (Primary and Secondary) Committee met yesterday.

The main business was the presentation of the teachers' claim for 1985. That was presented in the traditional context - "to secure salary levels in line with the principles of the [1974] Houghton Report". In detail it seeks a single scale of £7,250 to £15,250 for classroom teachers, plus a system of allowances above that for posts of special responsibility and for heads and deputies: any staging arrangements should provide for a minimum increase of £1,200 pa for every teacher from 1 April 1985. These aspirations are quite unrealistic.

In response the Management Panel leader said the Panel would consider the claim and referred to the employers' concern to see a restructuring of the pay scales. No offer was made: the Management Panel did not even consider possible offers. I understand that the employers hope to decide in mid-November on a package which might be offered. I do not yet have details, but I have arranged to meet some of their leading members and will keep you and other colleagues informed about the position and the instructions I propose to give my representative ahead of the next Burnham meeting, which is likely to be in late November.

The second item was London Weighting for teachers from 1 April 1984. The Committee agreed that the Inner and Outer London rates should be increased by 5.1%, and that the employers would make an offer in respect of the fringe areas at the next Burnham meeting. (My representatives opposed the latter point, but were out-voted within the Management Panel.)

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Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, members of E(PSP), the Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

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