



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Rt Hon Norman Fowler MP
Secretary of State
Department of Health and Social Security
Alexander Fleming House
Elephant and Castle
London
SE1 6BY

21 May 1985

Dear Secretary of State

SOCIAL SECURITY REVIEWS

I understand from my officials that drafts of several important sections of your Green Paper are not yet available. I do not want to delay publication. But there are a number of points where it is crucial that we get ourselves organised properly to make the Green Paper a success.

I am particularly anxious to see as quickly as possible the revised sections of the Green Paper dealing with our pension proposals. These will have to cover a considerable amount of ground, including the proposed arrangements for compulsory private pensions, the revised proposals for transitional protection for those under 50 and the associated NIC proposals. Much of this material will be new. It is essential that we get it right. That means having a clear and agreed understanding of all the supporting costings and analysis of the economic implications.

I also think it is essential that we agree well in advance of publication the line we propose to take in public about all the major changes proposed in the Green Paper. There are a number of loose ends that need tidying up, including the treatment of invalidity benefit. We cannot put together effective and convincing statements of the case for our proposals until we see drafts of the Green Paper itself. Our officials will also need to agree on the detailed analysis,

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for example of winners and losers, which must underlie effective briefing. I was extremely concerned to hear that there has been no further discussion of these issues at official level since we met earlier this month.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely

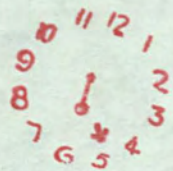
P. Broadbent

for PETER REES

[Approved by the Chief Secretary]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

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From the Secretary of State for Social Services

Andrew Turnbull Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

24 May 1985

Dear Andrew

*1 copy to JR
1 copy to PM
✓ 1 copy to AT*

SOCIAL SECURITY REVIEW

As agreed, I enclose a copy of the Green Paper as it has gone to print.

I understand that the Chancellor and John Redwood have both asked to see the Volume 2 chapter on pensions and I enclose copies for them.

Yours ever
S H F Hickey
for
S H F Hickey
Private Secretary

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