



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
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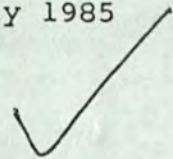
FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Minister -

to see

2 July 1985

Dear Mr Jarvis,



In the past week I have met representatives of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and the Association of County Councils to discuss my open letter of 21 May (copy attached for convenience) and to answer certain questions arising from it in advance of Wednesday's meeting of the Burnham Primary and Secondary Committee. I have decided to write to you as Secretary of the Teachers' Panel because it seems important to me that members of your panel should be aware of the key points made at these meetings.

The main points about 1985/86, which are already public knowledge but which I repeated at the two meetings, were as follows:

- i. the Government has taken a firm decision not to make extra resources available to local authorities for 1985/86 nor to make changes in the system for targets and penalties for that year;
- ii. the Government is equally firm that local authorities' expenditure baseline for 1986/87 would not be adjusted on account of an end-loaded settlement for 1985/86;
- iii. the possibility of additional resources for 1985/86 was lost by the failure to produce an acceptable, affordable and negotiable reform package which, in accordance with my letter of 5 July 1984 to the education chairmen of the Local Authority Associations, I could have commended to my colleagues.

/I very much

F Jarvis Esq MA MIPR
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I very much hope that that position will not arise again for 1986/87. My 21 May letter made clear the Government's willingness to provide some additional resources for that year to secure progress towards the Government's objectives. These are to improve quality and standards in the education service. In output terms these imply improvements in curriculum and pupils' educational achievements. These depend to an important degree on the quality of teachers and teaching. Hence I want to see pay, conditions of service and management of teachers which result in recruitment of the right kind of people, trained in the right kind of way, motivated to give of their best and to improve themselves through an expanded network of in-service training, and deployed to match the needs of pupils. A clear, formally agreed and generally accepted description of teachers' duties and responsibilities seems desirable, together with a pay structure which matches recruitment, motivation and management needs.

For additional resources to be made available for 1986/87 it will be necessary for the parties to reach an acceptable and firm agreement in principle by October 1985. This is not an arbitrary date: after October it is simply too late for an agreement to be reflected in the RSG settlement. October is therefore a real deadline and it is important that negotiations get under way quickly. It would be tragic for there to be no extra resources for 1986/87 because of an insistence that 1986/87 cannot be addressed until 1985/86 is settled.

Time is short. I am very ready to join such discussions as might be considered necessary to make progress at the rate required.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Chairman of the Management Panel and to the Chairman of the Committee, Sir John Wordie. I am also releasing it to the Press.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth Joseph

