



CONFIDENTIAL

AT
NBM 17/4

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My ref: J/PSO/11902/85

Your ref:

16 April 1985

Dear Peter

I have seen Tom King's letter to you of 6 March suggesting that we should announce our intentions to require nationalised industries to report on employee involvement and the employment of disabled people.

I share the concern which colleagues have expressed about the desirability of making these changes.

We need to consider how the proposals might affect the nationalised industries, and how public expectations might be aroused in respect of other public sector bodies, including local authorities. In any case, as you pointed out in your letter of 19 March, there may be more advantage in relying on the proposed general permissive power over industries' reports which would allow individual directions to meet the circumstances of each industry.

As you know we have commended to local and water authorities the Code of Good Practice on the Employment of Disabled People launched by the Prime Minister and we have set up the Widdicombe Inquiry into the conduct of local authority business, which will involve the question of employee involvement in local government.

We need to consider more carefully whether these voluntary measures need reinforcing before committing ourselves to legislation. To that end I agree with Barney Hayhoe's suggestion that a paper on the effectiveness of the requirements of the Employment Act 1982 would be useful.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other E(NI) colleagues, Willie Whitelaw, Nicholas Edwards, John Biffen and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours
Patrick

PATRICK JENKIN

NAT IND: Policy: PLID.

APR 1985