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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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From the Secretary of State for Social Services

David Norgrove Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

16 July 1986

Prime Minister

Mr Fowler is very keen to make
this announcement himself, even though
it is a small way a machinery of
government change. There are precedents
apparently, but that he should
make the announcement?

Dear David

DE/DHSS LOCAL OFFICE NETWORKS

Your letter of 1 July to Tony Laurance recorded the
Prime Minister's approval of the proposals put forward by my
Secretary of State to transfer the Unemployment Review function
and decisions on 'failure to attend' cases to the Department of
Employment.

DS
16/7

My Secretary of State would like the transfer to be announced
as soon as possible. In his view, it would be best if he were
to make the announcement. This would make clear the DHSS's
full support for the transfer. I attach a draft announcement
for your consideration.

I am copying this letter to Rachel Lomax (HM Treasury),
Andrew Lansley (Chancellor of the Duchy's office), Jill Rutter
(Chief Secretary's office), John Turner (Department of Employment),
Malcolm McHardy (Minister of State's office, Department of Trade
and Industry) and to Michael Stark (Sir Robert Armstrong's office).

Yours

Giles

Giles Denham
Private Secretary

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DRAFT ARRANGED PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ON UNEMPLOYMENT REVIEW

To ask the Secretary of State for Social Services whether he has any plans to change to arrangements for unemployment review in his Department.

Unemployment Review Officers are responsible both for giving advice and help to unemployed people on finding work, and for preventing abuse. These functions, involving some 650 staff, have been undertaken by the DHSS because of its responsibility for paying supplementary benefit to unemployed people.

The Department of Employment has now introduced nationwide its Restart scheme which involves calling the 1.3 million people unemployed for a year or more for individual interview at Jobcentres. This means there is a considerable overlap with the work of Unemployment Review Officers. The Secretary of State for Employment and I have therefore concluded, with the agreement of the Prime Minister, that the function of unemployment review should be transferred to the Department of Employment. We expect the transfer to be completed by April next year.

Renew



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SERVICES

PT 4.



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 July 1986

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 16 July to which was attached a proposed announcement about the transfer of the Unemployment Review function and decisions on 'failure to attend' cases to the Department of Employment.

The Prime Minister is content that your Secretary of State should make the announcement and is also content with its terms, subject to the views of the Secretary of State for Employment and other colleagues.

I am copying this letter to Rachel Lomax (HM Treasury), Andrew Lansley (Chancellor of the Duchy's Office), Jill Rutter (Chief Secretary's Office), John Turner (Department of Employment), Malcolm McHardy (Minister of State's Office, Department of Trade and Industry) and to Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

David Norgrove

Giles Denham Esq
Department of Health and Social Security.