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NAPM

BT 19/6

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG  
01-233 3000

18 June 1984

The Rt. Hon. Norman Fowler MP  
Secretary of State for Social Services

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Norman Fowler'.

**DISPUTE AT DHSS NEWCASTLE**

You wrote to me on 15 June about your plans for tackling the Newcastle dispute. We must clearly be seen to be watching the situation closely. But I think at present we should leave it to departmental management to announce any fresh moves of the kind you have in mind. I need hardly stress how carefully we have to handle the position at Newcastle, now that the current Civil Service pay negotiations have reached such a critical stage. No doubt your people will continue to keep in touch with mine.

You refer to the sensitive question of laying off staff whose work is affected by an industrial dispute. I agree we should take another considered look at this issue for the future and I will arrange for this to be done in association with other interested departments.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the members of E(PSP) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

NIGEL LAWSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Nigel Lawson'.



