

CONFIDENTIAL

*Handwritten initials*



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Dr Rhodes Boyson MA MP  
Minister of State  
Department of Health & Social Security  
Alexander Fleming House  
Elephant and Castle  
LONDON SE1 6BY

*Handwritten: Dr 29/8*

*Handwritten: 28* August 1984

*Handwritten signature: See Rhodes.*

DHSS NEWCASTLE SHIFTWORKING DISPUTE

*Handwritten: - will request if required*

I am replying to your letter of 22 August since Nigel Lawson is away.

Clearly we must hope that your letter setting out management's offer persuades sufficient strikers to return to carry out the basic uprating work. But recruiting casual staff may well, as you recognise, give the militants a chance to extend disruptive action to the Department of Employment and perhaps elsewhere.

I understand that your people have made further approaches to the General Secretaries of the SCPS and the CPSA, and presumably you will see whether these bear fruit before proceeding further. As you know, we are not yet out of the wood on the 1984 central pay claim. The unions have now received my letter refusing arbitration and it is clearly desirable to keep the temperature down as far as possible.

For these reasons, it would be helpful if you would await the outcome of your initiatives before taking steps to recruit additional staff but I recognise that these arguments may be outweighed by the operational necessity of meeting a restricted timetable to carry out the benefits uprating exercise. And you are best placed to make this judgment.

I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of yours.

*Handwritten signature: Barney Hayhoe*

BARNEY HAYHOE

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CIVIL SERVICE: Industrial Action  
in the C.S.

Sept 79