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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS
From 4 March 1985

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The Rt Hon George Younger MP
Secretary of State for Scotland
Dover House
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

*MPBM
MGA 2/3*

21 March 1985

Jan George,

with MEA

Thank you for your letter of 14 March in response to mine of 8 March to Norman Tebbit.

You will know from my letter that, in proposing the projects to be included in phase 1 of this programme, my intention was to include only those which received a high grading both on grounds of academic excellence and industrial relevance and which, moreover, appeared likely to secure the admission of students this coming autumn without the need for additional building. It was consistent with those objectives that the project to increase intakes in production and electronic engineering at Strathclyde was excluded. And since the intention of the programme is to secure additional output of high quality across a range of disciplines and with strict regard to relative cost, my approach has intentionally not been one of seeking to secure a first phase based on strict regional proportions.

Nevertheless, in view of the fact that Strathclyde have now indicated that they will not require building work in order to admit students this autumn (and will, I understand, have more modest capital requirements thereafter than at first sight appeared), I would be prepared exceptionally to include the bid from Strathclyde as an addition to phase one of the programme. I have therefore included this project within the list of those notified to the UGC.

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As far as the proposed course at Stirling is concerned, however, the position is materially different. To include this course which, despite the other successes of the university in securing industrial support, has not commanded a high industrial rating in contention with other proposals would be inconsistent with our objectives and hence difficult to defend. You will have seen, moreover, that Norman Tebbit emphasised in his letter to me of 14 March, the importance he too places on industrial relevance. While bids from Scottish universities will therefore be considered under phase two of the programme, I would not propose to include Stirling in phase one and I hope that you will accept my reasons for not doing so.

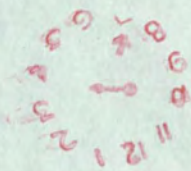
On your other points, I quite understand and am content with what you propose.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Defence, Employment and Wales, the Minister without Portfolio, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Robin Nicholson.

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Lawson,

Keir.

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