



DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
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Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

16 December 1985

The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke MP
Paymaster General
Department of Employment
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW1

NBPM

R Ken

SEX DISCRIMINATION AND SHOPS BILLS

with request if required
Thank you for your letter of 21 November in reply to my letter of 25 October to David Young, about the removal of restrictions on young people's hours of work.

I am sorry that you do not feel we can take the opportunity provided by either the Shops Bill or the Sex Discrimination Bill to remove some of those existing restrictions on young people's hours of work - which discriminates not only on grounds of sex but also between types of employer. However I do understand your reasons. Clearly the passage of the Shops Bill in particular is likely to be controversial and I appreciate your desire to avoid complicating matters further.

I take it however that the same objection would not apply to providing Government support were a suitable Lords private member's amendment to be put forward to either Bill addressing the problems identified by the Post Office and the newspaper industry?

I welcome your proposal for a general review of legislation governing the hours of work of young people, to cover this and other matters, and would be grateful if this Department could be involved. The relevant official is Mr D Gunner in General Policy Division here (on 215 3832).

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord President, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, members of H and QL, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

LEON BRITTAN

Handwritten signature and initials
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