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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham
Secretary of State for Employment
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW1 9NF

Prime Minister 4

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The attachment sets out what the 26 June 1986

See brief

DES regards as its
negotives. 26/6

WHITE PAPER ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING POLICIES: WORKING TOGETHER: EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Thank you for your letter of 24 June covering a draft of this White Paper.

2. I understand that officials have been able to reach agreement on final drafting amendments and that there are no outstanding points between us.
3. We are already in touch about arrangements for the announcement and supporting activities on 2 July. I look forward to seeing drafts of the statement and related Press material because of the need to try to avoid adverse reactions from education interests particularly to the arrangements for the accountability of the new National Council for Vocational Qualifications.
4. I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord President, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Trade and Industry, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Secretary, the Chief Whip and the Captain of the Gentleman at Arms.

Letter - copy of our draft negotives.

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DRAFT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

The principal aim of the Department of Education and Science is to improve standards throughout the education service and to increase the value obtained for the substantial resources allocated to it by the taxpayer and the ratepayer.

2. In schools, the Department aims

- to promote agreement on the curriculum and ensure that it is broad and balanced for all pupils;
- to foster the application of what is learnt to real problems and situations;
- to stretch pupils of all abilities;
- to give parents more responsibility; and
- to enhance the powers of governing bodies of schools.

3. In non-advanced further education, the Department aims

- to increase the responsiveness of the service to the needs of employers;

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vague.*

- to provide a sound education for young people and adults;
- to secure an improved use of resources - and in particular a significant tightening of student: staff ratios.

4. In higher education the Department aims

- to raise quality and standards while preserving the full breadth of educational provision;
- to make the system more responsive to the needs of the economy;
- to improve management systems in universities; and
- generally to increase value for money by rationalisation.

5. The Department is also responsible for

- adult and continuing education. The principal aim is to up-date the national workforce at all levels.
- the civil science base financed by the University Grants Committee and the Research Councils.

The principal aims are to promote excellence by greater concentration and selectivity of research activities and to stimulate commercial applications of new ideas.

- teachers - the need is to secure the supply of teachers of sufficient quality to teach the agreed curricula and to update the skills of the existing teacher force.

6. Throughout the education system - at all levels - the output of citizens competent in mathematics, science and technology must be increased. The DES - in co-operation with the other Government Departments concerned - is developing a range of policies to that end.

Education

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