

CONFIDENTIAL

CERSG



PRIME MINISTER

To see before your bilateral with
Lord Young tomorrow.

WORKFARE: THE RESTART PROGRAMME

AKS
30/6,

Your private secretary's minute of 2 June on this subject records that at your meeting that day you "stressed the urgency of getting effective arrangements in place and following up the information provided by the Restart pilot schemes. A full report on the action taken and the results should be provided by Wednesday 2 July."

I am glad to say that Norman Fowler and I have reached agreement on the arrangements necessary to make Restart effective (as you will have seen from his minute to you of 19 June and my minute to him of 20 June). As a result adjudication on all benefit referrals from the Restart programme will be concentrated in the Unemployment Benefit Service. I am sure this will greatly enhance the impact of the programme and I am very grateful to Norman Fowler for his co-operation. Our officials are also discussing the steps necessary to secure the early transfer of the work of the Unemployment Review Officers from DHSS to my Department.

The national extension of the Restart programme began on 6 May, when the first Restart Teams outside the pilot areas began to call long term unemployed people in for interview. By 27 June, all but a handful of the Restart Teams were operational and more than 60% had started interviewing. All the Restart Teams will be fully operational by the end of the first week of July.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



This has involved recruiting and training from scratch some 1,800 staff in little more than two months. I have been very impressed by the skill and commitment of the MSC in gearing themselves up for this programme.

I am confident that, with the advantage of the early start we have made in many areas, we shall have no difficulty in meeting the target of covering all the current stock of 1.3m long term unemployed by March next year together with those who flow into this category by then.

Norman Fowler and I will be putting our proposals to colleagues about the more fundamental changes in departmental responsibilities for payments to the unemployed which were also mentioned at your meeting on 2 June.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Chief Secretary, the Secretary of State for Social Services, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Peter Morrison.

D Y
30th June 1986

CONFIDENTIAL

MANPOWER

SKM'S
PT 14

