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MB
26 September 1986

Dear Mr Paine,

The Secretary of State for Employment has asked me to thank you for your letter of 6 August and to reply on his behalf. I apologise for the delay in replying.

Lord Young was very concerned to learn of your difficulties in finding work, despite your extensive efforts. As you have been out of work for over a year, you are entitled to the special help which Jobcentres give to long term unemployed people under the Restart programme. I have therefore asked Mrs B Daniel from the Wiltshire Restart Team to contact you to arrange an interview. At the interview, you will be able to discuss your employment needs and find out about the wide range of help which is on offer for people who are seeking work. In particular, the Restart Team will be able to arrange for you to see someone, if you wish, to discuss the various benefits and allowances which are available to people in work, and which can make quite a difference to their basic level of take home pay.

The Restart Team will be able to discuss whether training might be of benefit in your search for work. You mentioned particularly a Certificate of Professional Competence Course and asked if grants were available. Although the Government, through the Manpower Services Commission, does provide financial help for re-training in a wide variety of skills, this does not include support for people studying for the CPC. As I am sure you will appreciate, the public money available for training is limited and in order to make the best use of it the Commission concentrates its support on skills which are most in demand. I understand that, in general, the transport industry provides the necessary training to meet its needs for qualified managers and the Commission does not therefore provide any extra support.



However, the Government is keen to help people who wish to take up a particular training course to update their skills or develop new ones and has introduced Career Development Loans for this purpose. This experimental scheme is running in four areas of the country, one of which is Bristol and Bath. To be eligible, a borrower has either to live or intend to train in one of the areas covered. Neither Melksham nor Devizes is covered but, if you were able to find a suitable training course based in the Bristol and Bath area, you would certainly be eligible to apply to a bank for a loan. Loans are available for between £500 and £5000 from participating banks. ... I am enclosing an information pack to help you decide whether to follow up this possibility.

Thank you again for writing on this matter which is clearly of great personal concern. Lord Young hopes that you will soon be able to find a suitable opening.

Yours sincerely

C Slocock

CAROLINE SLOCOCK
Private Secretary

