

SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET

6 Sr  
✓ Dc. Mr Pickett  
Mr Lyham  
Mr Vesker.

From the Private Secretary

11 November 1982

Dear Imogen,

TECHNICAL COLLEGES

I understand that there was discussion late last night at the House about the terms of the Prime Minister's reply to a written PQ, following the discussion which the Prime Minister had yesterday morning with the Ministers most concerned. The following is now proposed:-

Question - Sir William van Straubenzee to ask the Prime Minister

Whether she is satisfied with the existing arrangements for technical and vocational education for young people, and if she will make a statement.

Answer

Growing concern about existing arrangements has been expressed over many years, not least by the National Economic Development Council.

I have asked the Chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, together with my rt. hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Education and Science, ~~and for~~ <sup>and Wales,</sup> Employment, to develop a pilot scheme to start by September 1983, for new institutional arrangements for technical and vocational education for 14 - 18 year olds, within existing financial resources, and, where possible, in association with Local Education Authorities.

I would be grateful if you, and those to whom I am copying this letter, would let me know as soon as possible, and at the latest by close of business this evening, whether you have any comments on the proposed Answer.

I am sending copies of this letter to Barnaby Shaw (Department of Employment), John Kerr (HM Treasury), John Gieve (Chief Secretary's office, HM Treasury), David Edmonds (Department of the Environment), Muir Russell (Scottish Office) and Adam Peat (Welsh Office).

Yours sincerely,

Michael Scholar

Mrs. Imogen Wilde,  
Department of Education and Science

SECRET

NR/Butcher?

MLS.

Answer to Parliamentary Question (Written),  
tabled by Sir William van Straubenzee on  
Thursday, 11th November 1982

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Growing concern about existing arrangements  
has been expressed over many years, not least  
by the National Economic Development Council.

I have discussed this with my RHF's the  
Secretaries of State for Education & Science,  
and for Employment, and with the Chairman of  
the Manpower Services Commission.

me } I have asked the Chairman, together with my  
RHF's } to develop a pilot scheme to start by  
September 1983, for new institutional arrangements  
for technical and vocational education for  
14-18 year olds, within existing financial  
resources, and, where possible, in association  
with Local Education Authorities.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

For answer on:..... Thursday ..... 11th November 1982  
(DAY) (DATE)

If ORAL  
insert X



If for  
WRITTEN  
ANSWER  
leave blank

If for  
PRIORITY  
WRITTEN  
insert W  
and give  
date for  
answer

Name..... Sir William van Straubenzee .....

Constituency (..... Wokingham .....):

To ask..... The Prime Minister .....

.....  
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

Whether she is satisfied with the existing arrangements for technical and vocational education for young people, and if she will make a statement.

Signed.....

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Edve.:  
Proposals to est.  
Tech Colleges 10/82  
with mes 12/11

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PA

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Michael Scholar Esq  
No.10 Downing Street  
London SW1

12 November 1982

Dear Michael

TECHNICAL COLLEGES

We spoke about your letter of 11 November to Imogen Wilde and her reply of the same date. The Chief Secretary was content with the Question and Answer as drafted in your letter and with the amendment to the Question that Imogen suggested. However, he could not agree to the amendment that she suggested to the Answer. The revised form of words would not, in his view, reflect the decision on financing the scheme that was recorded in your earlier letter of 10 November.

Copies of this go to Imogene Wilde, Barnaby Shore, John Kerr, David Edmonds, Muir Russell and Adam Peat.

Yours sincerely,

Jr. Gieve

JOHN GIEVE

Private Secretary

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SCOTTISH OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

SECRET

Michael Scholar Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

11 November 1982

*Dear Michael*

TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 11 November to Imogen Wilde.

The Secretary of State has decided that there is no need for the pilot scheme to apply to Scotland. The thinking behind that decision is brought out in the attached note containing a few of the main points we will be making in response to enquiries when the news breaks. The Secretary of State has already mentioned to Mr Tebbit that he will be taking this line. It would be helpful if the Scottish position could be made clear as appropriate in Press briefing etc. A suitable form of words might be:-

"There is a separate and distinctive system of education in Scotland. There are, I understand, various educational developments there bearing on technical and vocational education for this age group."

It is clear from the draft answer that there are no additional financial resources for the pilot scheme. Mr Younger attaches the greatest importance to there being no diversion of resources from MSC expenditure in Scotland to support the scheme, since that would undermine the success of the separate strategy we are pursuing. Equally, he has asked me to register at this stage that if in future the technical colleges scheme does command extra resources it will be necessary for appropriate sums to be made available through the education budget in Scotland so that our relative position and rate of progress can be maintained.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

*A Muir Russell*

A MUIR RUSSELL  
Private Secretary

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SCOTTISH POINTS

1. Education and industry are a single ministerial portfolio.
2. We are already well seized of the need to ensure that school education caters for a broad range of abilities and prepares for a wide range of careers. To this end, work on the Munn and Dunning Development Programme, which will provide an appropriate curriculum and awards for all pupils, is well advanced, as is consideration of the links between the Munn and Dunning courses and further education courses, within the context of an overall framework for the education of 16-18 year olds. As part of these developments technology is well to the fore, for example, the CCC's project "Education for the Industrial Society" and the CCC's recently set up Committee on Technology.
3. There are already good relationships between the MSC and education authorities. Discussions are continuing on the off the job element of the youth training scheme, and there seems no reason to doubt that FE colleges are capable of producing training of the kind required.
4. As regards the funding of further education and changes in the balance between central and local government responsibilities for the management of individual colleges, we are considering the report of the Council for Tertiary Education.
5. We would not expect the MSC's programmes in Scotland to be affected by any adjustment of the Commission's priorities to provide for the pilot schemes in England and Wales.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-928 9222

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

M Scholar Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

11 November 1982

*Dear Michael,*

TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Thank you for your letter of earlier today in which you set out the terms of a proposed Answer for the Prime Minister to give to a written PQ on this subject tomorrow.

My Secretary of State has suggested two amendments to the draft Question and Answer as follows:

Question

i. Amend to read: "What plans she has to develop the existing arrangements for ....."; and

Answer

ii. Amend the penultimate line to read:

..... 14-18 year olds, within the government's public expenditure plans, and ....."

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

*Yours ever,*

*Inogen Wilde*

MRS I WILDE  
Private Secretary

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NOV 7 1952

CONFIDENTIAL



2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-212 3434

My ref:  
H/PSO/17726/82  
Your ref:  
11 November 1982

*Dear Michael*

TECHNICAL COLLEGES

I refer to your letter of 11 November to Imogen Wilde.

I assume that all the resources for this pilot scheme will be provided through MSC. On that basis we have no comment to make on the proposal. If eventually the pilot scheme leads to extra demands on local education authorities then we would have to look again at the question of resources.

*Yours  
D A Edmonds*

D A EDMONDS  
Private Secretary