

SUBJECT

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

July
21 August 1983

Dear Imogen,

The Prime Minister had a discussion today with Ralph Howell, M.P. Mr. Alison was also present,

Mr. Howell sought her support for the Employment Research Centre recently established at Buckingham University. The Prime Minister said that she could offer no financial support, but thought there was much useful work which the centre could do on the long term issues facing the Government: for example on the "work-fare" concept under which the unemployed received their benefit in return for participation in useful public-works programmes. The Prime Minister said that the centre could usefully do work which in the past had been done in Government, for example in the CPRS. She hoped that the Social Science Research Council would make grants to the centre for such work, just as they did to Professor Minford's unit in Liverpool in respect of a study on unemployment which had been of much assistance to the Government last autumn,

The Prime Minister ended the meeting by saying that she would write to Mr. Howell, suggesting how he and Professor Alan Peacock might best approach the Social Science Research Council. The Prime Minister would be grateful for a draft letter and for any indication how your Secretary of State could assist in this process,

I am sending a copy of this letter to Brett Bonner (Department of Employment) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office),

Yours sincerely,

Michael Scholar

Mrs Imogen Wilde
Department of Education and Science.

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