



10 DOWNING STREET

11 August 1983

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Ralph.

When we met recently I undertook to write to you indicating how best you or Professor Peacock might approach <sup>now CSRC</sup> SSRC seeking financial support for the Employment Research Centre at the University of Buckingham.

I suggest that the best course of action is for you or Professor Peacock to write direct to Mr. Michael Posner, the Chairman of the Council, at 1 Temple Avenue, London, EC4Y 0BD, setting out full details of the project and of the level of support which you envisage. The Council have said informally that they will be interested to hear of your ideas and I am sure that your request will be given the fullest consideration.

I wish you and Professor Peacock success in this venture.

Yours ever  
Margaret



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE  
ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON SE1 7PH  
TELEPHONE 01-928 9222  
FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Michael Scholar Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1

5 August 1983

*Dear Michael,* *Pl type* *Wm SW*

Thank you for your letter of 21 July 1983 following up the Prime Minister's meeting with Mr Ralph Howell MP who is seeking support on behalf of Professor Alan Peacock for the Employment Research Centre at the University of Buckingham.

Officials here have been in touch with the SSRC about Professor Peacock's proposal and we understand that the Council will be very interested to hear of his ideas. Professor Peacock is a past member of the Council and a past Chairman of its Economic Committee and SSRC are well acquainted with his work and the nature and scope of his interests. They have therefore suggested that Mr Howell or Professor Peacock should write direct to the Chairman of the Council. The Prime Minister may accordingly wish to write to Ralph Howell in the following terms:

"When we met recently I undertook to write to you indicating how best you or Professor Peacock might approach SSRC seeking financial support for the Employment Research Centre at the University of Buckingham.

I suggest that the best course of action is for you or Professor Peacock to write direct to Mr Michael Posner, the Chairman of the Council, at 1 Temple Avenue, London EC4Y 0BD, setting out full details of the project and of the level of support which you envisage. The Council have said informally that they will be interested to hear of your ideas and I am sure that your request will be given the fullest consideration.

You I wish you and Professor Peacock success in this venture."

You may find it helpful to have the enclosed copy of a letter which my Secretary of State recently sent Mr Howell on the same subject.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of your.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Mrs I Wilde*

MRS I WILDE  
Private Secretary



M E Quinlan CB  
Permanent Secretary

Department of Employment  
Caxton House Tothill Street  
London SW1H 9NF  
Telephone 01-213 3000

NBEN

5 April 1984

Professor Alan Peacock DSC MA FBA  
Vice Chancellor  
The University of Buckingham  
BUCKINGHAM  
MK18 1EG

*Dear Professor Peacock,*

Many thanks for your letter of 3 April and for the report of the study of employment protection by Mr Dnes, which will I am sure be of interest to the policy branches here. We are anxious to keep in touch with the Employment Research Centre and I hope that arrangements can soon be made to include its work in the survey of labour market research which is being done by the Employment Market Research Unit here. (I gather David Stanton is already in touch about a visit to Buckingham.)

The idea of a study of the Swiss employment scene sounds interesting. I cannot commit the Department in advance of receiving a research outline, but we would certainly look sympathetically at any proposal. We should be looking, naturally, for lessons which could be applied in the UK, so we would need some reassurance that it will be possible to distinguish the effects of the Swiss "guestworkers" policies from those of other policies in operation there.

I look forward to hearing more about this when you are back from Switzerland.

*All good wishes,  
Yours sincerely,  
Michael Quinlan*

M E QUINLAN

# The University of Buckingham

Buckingham MK18 1EG, England Telephone: Buckingham (0280) 814080

From the Vice-Chancellor: Professor Alan Peacock, DSC MA FBA

WSPM  
AT 10/15  
PP's  
1. ~~Mr~~ - to see  
2. cc PS / Sec of State  
PS (Mr Morrison)  
~~Mr Sunhill (No 10)~~  
Mr Berr  
Mr Reid  
Mr Brand  
Mr Robinson  
Mr Stanton  
3rd May, 1984 Mr Brimmer  
John  
4/5

Mr M. E. Quinlan, CB  
Permanent Secretary,  
Department of Employment,  
Caxton House,  
Tothill Street,  
LONDON SW1H 9NF.

Dear Michael,

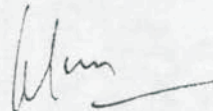
Many thanks for your reply to my letter of 3 April.

I have had some discussion with Swiss economists in Zürich last weekend. It seems that their Institute of Applied Economics has done some work on unemployment rates and could co-operate at relatively short notice with us.

I am anxious to get ahead with this work, and think that I can find the small sum I need without much delay, so I shall not be coming back to you with a research outline. I shall be glad to send any results to you, if we get any which would interest policymakers.

Many thanks for your interest,

Yours,



Alan Peacock

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Ralph Howen



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# The University of Buckingham

Buckingham MK18 1EG, England Telephone: Buckingham (0280) 814080

From the Vice-Chancellor: Professor Alan Peacock, DSC MA FBA

3rd April, 1984

Mr. M.E. Quinlan, CB  
Permanent Secretary,  
Department of Employment,  
Tothill Street,  
LONDON S.W.1.

*Dear Mr. Quinlan*

As you may have noticed, I was subjected to a certain amount of prodding by the PM on the question of seeking government support for the Employment Research Centre whose proposed development is already known to your Department. Since Ralph Howell and I saw Norman Tebbit last year, we have made a slow start, mainly because the Employment Trust set up alongside the Centre and independent of this University has not been as active as we expected in raising funds. Of the four studies commissioned, two are now complete, and we hope to publish these shortly. I enclose a draft of Dnes's study of employment protection to show you the kind of work we are doing.

The PM expressed considerable interest in the case of Switzerland and I wondered if your Department might be interested in financing a short study designed to uncover the reasons why the Swiss have such a low employment rate. I have excellent contacts in Zürich at the University which I have to visit in any case on April 28 in order to receive an Honorary Degree. I am sure that they could supply a good young researcher to do some legwork for us leaving us at the Centre to put a report together. I cannot imagine that a study of this sort need cost more than £5,000.

I hope that the idea appeals to you and that I may look forward to making the necessary arrangements when I visit Zürich later this month though I realise that this would mean moving fast!

*Kind regards,*  
Yours sincerely

*Alan Peacock*

Alan Peacock

Enc.