



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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From the Secretary of State for Social Services

Tim Flesher Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street

*Pine Munks*

*Agree the  
formula attached?*

29 March 1985

*Jr*  
*29/3*

*Dear Tim,*

BENEFITS FOR 16 and 17 YEAR OLDS

You may have seen that Mr Campbell-Savours MP has tabled a Question about the future benefit entitlement of 16 and 17 year olds. As similar queries may be put to a number of Ministers, I am enclosing the draft of the reply which, subject to any comments, my Minister proposes to give early next week.

I am copying this to Margaret O'Mara (HM Treasury), Judith Rutherford (Department of Employment), Leigh Lewis (Office of the Minister without Portfolio) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

*Yours sincerely*

*S H F*

S H F Hickey  
Private Secretary

Mr D N Campbell-Savours (La Workington): To ask the Secretary of State for Social Services, whether he proposes any changes affecting the benefit entitlements of 16 and 17 year olds.

DRAFT REPLY

We have no <sup>present</sup> proposals <sup>at present</sup> for changes in benefit entitlement as part of the current plans for expanding the Youth Training Scheme. It is, however, the aim of this expansion to provide a guaranteed opportunity of appropriate training for young people of this age who are not in work or in full-time education. <sup>So that unemployment is not an option for them</sup> The benefit position will be given further consideration in the light of progress towards this objective, taking into account also any wider changes in the benefit system which may follow from the present social security review.

no present proposals

ms

29 MAR 1985

