

From: R T J Wilson

18 November 1987

P. 022925

PS/LORD PRESIDENT

NBM.
PS/Lord Privy Seal

Mr Norgrove ✓

Professor Griffiths

EDUCATION REFORM BILL: PUBLICITY

1. I attach some comments which ^{*leaf*} you could send the Education Secretary's Private Secretary, in response to Mr Baker's minute of 12 November to the Lord President. They reflect discussion with Professor Griffiths.

2. I telephoned the comments through to Mr Stuart in DES yesterday evening given the shortage of time. I got the impression that the comment on page 5, about deleting the statement that no child will pass or fail assessment tests, may cause DES problems. But let us see.

RTW.

R T J WILSON

DRAFT LETTER FROM MR ELAND TO PRIVATE SECRETARY, SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

EDUCATION REFORM BILL: PUBLICITY

As promised, I enclose some comments on the booklet which your
Secretary of State sent the Lord President on 12 November. $\sqrt{\hspace{1em}}$ Copies
go to the private secretaries to the Chief Secretary, the
Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales, the Chief Whip and to
Sir Robert Armstrong.

EDUCATION REFORM: THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS FOR SCHOOLS

The following comments refer to the text circulated by the Secretary of State on 12 November.

Page 1. (What will the National Curriculum consist of?)

Delete "which all children must study during their compulsory school years from 5 to 16."

Page 3. (What will be the responsibilities of schools and teachers?)

Delete the last two sentences, "For example,...Initiative".

Page 5. (How will the arrangements be introduced?)

Delete "For each subject" in the first line and "in each subject" in the last line.

Page 5. (What happens if my child fails the tests?)

Delete first sentence: "No one will pass or fail."

Delete "for each subject" in the second sentence.

Amend the third and fourth sentences to read: "The purpose of assessment, including tests, is to ensure that parents know how their children are doing at school and more generally to identify how well pupils in particular schools are doing against attainment targets."

Page 6. (What information will be available?)

Amend the second sentence to read: "The proposal is that parents will be told what their child....".

Page 8. (When will these changes take place?)

Amend the third sentence to read: "...will be introduced..."

Page 13. (What sort of expenditure will become the school's responsibility?)

Amend the first sentence to read: "...and certain services provided centrally..."

Page 14. (What if a governing body gets into difficulties with its budget?)

~~[No comment on this passage. But]~~ The draft of the Bill before Legislation Committee does not include the right of appeal to the Secretary of State, mentioned here, and will need to be amended to include it.

Page 19. (Why create grant-maintained schools?)

Delete "and will not charge fees" in the last sentence, so that it ends "...free education."

Page 20. (How will the Secretary of State decide application?)

The tone of this answer could be made more encouraging: for instance, by inserting at the beginning "The Government proposes that there should be as few obstacles as possible in the way of opting out."

Page 25. (Can a school return to LEA management?)

The point was made in E(EP) on 21 July that it should not be assumed that schools in such circumstances would wish to revert to LEA status: there were other options, such as direct grant status, which would be open to them.

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EDUCATION: Policy PTH

