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PRIME MINISTER

13 May 1988

Admission of Pupils to Maintained Schools

Early in April you asked the DES whether it might be possible to implement the open enrolment provisions of the Education Bill in full by September 1989.

They have now responded; but regrettably with some rather feeble arguments. This is just the sort of response which the private sector would simply not put up with.

Rather than have yet another argument with DES I would suggest the following:

1. Approve strongly the Secretary of State's determination to sort out as many as possible admission limit queries by September 1989.
2. Suggest that as the Bill is so important to the government in this term it would be useful to have a six-monthly monitoring meeting with DES <sup>minutes</sup> [invitation] (say January and July) when progress in implementing the Bill could be assessed; this might cover the following:

Schools

Financial Delegation

Open Enrolment

GM Schools

National Curriculum

RE

City Technology Colleges

ILEA

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Polys

Independence

PCFC

Universities

UFC

I believe that if the monitoring is done thoroughly it would give you an invaluable opportunity to exert a continuing influence during the implementation of the Bill.

*Brian Griffiths*

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