

GR draft letter
to be typed for
Mr FLESHER TF below

Prime Minister:

attached (flag A) is a
draft answer by DES announcing
that reports of HMIs are to be made
public. Mr Prestley recommends that
this should be announced with the policy
statement following the Rayner review.
DES have not been clearing their lines with

PUBLICATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF REPORTS BY HM INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS

Yes Mr

Rayner; agree to Mr Prestley's proposal?
JT

1. Thank you for consulting me about the proposed Answer 25/10 for next Thursday, 28 October.

2. The last occasion on which the Prime Minister was involved was in June, when she responded to the report by Sir Derek Rayner on the scrutinies of the Inspectorates in England and Wales and Scotland (Mr Rickett's letter of 14 June to Mrs Wilde, DES). The Prime Minister then asked to see the proposed policy statement and action document. Mrs Wilde replied on 17 June saying that the "next step is to prepare a policy statement: he [Sir K Joseph] would be letting her have this in due course".

3. It is now clear that DES is engaged on one of its customary exercises with the press. I attach a leader from last Saturday's Times. The sentence I have underlined is atrocious. It is particularly silly as it is clear that, in fact, the Inspectorate is now beginning to behave as it should.



4. The full position on the scrutinies is that we are still waiting for draft policy statement and action document from DES. Given the promise contained in Mrs Wilde's letter; the fact that three territories are involved, not just England; and the general undesirability of feeding out the results of the scrutiny piecemeal, I suggest that the Prime Minister should deal with the Answer only when she has been able to see the draft policy statement. My firm and clear advice is therefore against agreeing to the Answer being given next Thursday.

5. I attach a letter for you to send to Mrs Wilde in which I have, additionally, suggested some points on the text itself.

C PRIESTLEY
25 October 1982

Encs: Extract from Times,
23 October
Draft letter to Mrs Wilde



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-928 9222

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

T Flesher Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

2 November 1982

Dear Jim,

PUBLICATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF HMI REPORTS

Thank you for your letter of 27 October conveying the Prime Minister's comments on the proposed answer on the publication and follow-up of HMI Reports.

On the timing of the announcement you will by now have seen Sir Keith Joseph's letter of 27 October to Sir Derek Rayner. I understand that there is unlikely to be any difficulty about ensuring that conclusions on the scrutiny for England and Wales, on the one hand, and for Scotland on the other can be announced together; the work is proceeding with that objective in mind.

In general my Secretary of State agrees with the drafting changes proposed to the text. He wonders however whether by limiting systematic arrangements for follow-up to implementation, the scope of the arrangements would not be unduly and unnecessarily narrowed. The aim of these arrangements is not only to secure effective action in relation to the institutions inspected but also to encourage LEAs to develop procedures so that HMI's findings can be applied to other institutions within the area. We need to ensure that LEAs draw the general as well as the particular lessons from reports on institutions. I attach a revised text of the proposed answer which incorporates the Prime Minister's comments on the first paragraph and further clarifies the second paragraph of the answer.

As to procedures, Sir Keith Joseph thinks that the right course is to provide that copies of published reports can be obtained both through the LEA and from the Department. For some parents it may be more inconvenient to apply to Whitehall than to their local authority. And the reports may in practice be taken more seriously locally if the LEA is under an obligation itself to make copies available to the general public. To do it all from Whitehall would

be expensive in manpower but it would be right to make it clear to parents that they can always obtain copies from the issuing authority in case of local obstruction. We will make this clear in the text.

I am copying this letter to Adam Peat (Welsh Office), John Lyon (NIO), Muir Russell (Scottish Office), David Heyhoe (Lord President's Office) and Elizabeth Thoms (Rayner Unit).

Yours ever,

Inogen Wilde

MRS I WILDE
Private Secretary

REVISED PQ AND ANSWER

QUESTION: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Science, whether he will now make public the reports made to him by Her Majesty's Inspectorate on their formal inspections of educational institutions; what arrangements he proposes for following up such reports; and if he will make a statement.

ANSWER: The current practice of issuing such reports in confidence to the maintaining authority or the proprietor, the governors, and the head or principal of the institutions concerned, deprives parents and others of information which is of interest and concern to them. Knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses revealed in the Inspectorate's independent assessments is valuable to those institutions who are not for the time being the subject of such assessments, to the local authorities who maintain them, and to those working in the education system as teachers, governors, teacher trainers, and in other capacities, as a means of spreading good practice and fresh thinking and identifying and correcting short-comings. Citizens, including parents, those who pay for the inspected institutions through rates and taxes, and others who use them should also have the right to see these assessments. My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for Wales and I have therefore decided to give public access to all reports on formal inspections which issue from January 1983 onwards.

We have also decided to introduce more systematic arrangements for ensuring follow-up action. These will apply in the first instance to reports of formal inspections of maintained schools and FE institutions providing full-time education for students aged 16-18 inclusive.

The procedures for giving effect to these decisions must take account of the formal position of those responsible for, and working in, the institutions reported on and of the fact that the reports are issued to specified persons. To this end we are consulting the local authority and teacher associations and other interested bodies about the procedural details.



[The body of the document contains several paragraphs of text that are extremely faint and illegible due to the quality of the scan. The text appears to be organized into sections, possibly separated by horizontal lines, but the specific content cannot be discerned.]

file

Education da



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 October 1982

Dear Alan,

Publication and Follow Up of HMI Reports

Thank you for your letter of 26 October.

This follows up my phone call of earlier today. You will have seen from my letter to Imogen Wilde that the Prime Minister wants the conclusions on the scrutiny reports to be announced as a package. She is also concerned that any statements (formal or informal) which have already been made about particular issues arising from the report should not be allowed to divert attention from, or prejudice progress on, the rest.

That said, the Prime Minister agrees that withdrawing the Question at this late stage might create more problems than it would dispel. But Mrs. Thatcher would be grateful if all further action and announcements (including that on which DES consulted me last week) could be held back until she has seen the policy statements.

I am copying this letter to Imogen Wilde (DES), Adam Peat (Welsh Office), John Lyon (Northern Ireland Office), David Heyhoe (Lord President's Office) and to Elizabeth Thoms (Rayner Unit).

Yours ever,

Tim Flesher

Timothy Flesher

Alan McPherson, Esq.,
Scottish Office.

da

Mr FLESHER



A

PUBLICATION AND FOLLOW UP OF THE HMI REPORTS: SCOTTISH OFFICE
QUESTION

1. I think it is a question of how tough the Prime Minister wants to be. The Education Departments are not playing the game by the rules and being obliged to withdraw an inspired Question would be a salutary lesson. The PM would be within her rights on insisting on no action until she has seen the draft policy statement and this is what I believe she is entitled to ask for.

2. Equally, I do not believe that withdrawing the Question would cause such trouble as Mr McPherson's letter suggests; even in Scotland worse things happen at sea.

3. However, this is also a matter of relations between the PM and her Ministerial colleagues. The SO and DES are in the wrong, but the PM might wish to avoid appearing vindictive. And the Scots are now consulting the local authorities on the procedures for consultation.

4. Mr Rickett and you will wish to take a view on these two points. My counsel would be to stop the Question if you can.

5. I attach a draft letter, which caters for both eventualities.

C PRIESTLEY
27 October 1982

Gov. MACH : RAYNER PT 12.



CONFIDENTIAL

Alan McPherson Esq
Scottish Office

PUBLICATION AND FOLLOW UP OF HMI REPORTS

Thank you for your letter of 26 October.

1. This follows up my 'phone call of earlier today/yesterday. You will have seen from my letter to Imogen Wilde that the Prime Minister wants the conclusions on the scrutiny reports to be announced as a package. She is also concerned that any statements (formal or informal) which have already been made about particular issues arising from the report should not be allowed to divert attention from, or prejudice progress on, the rest. [~~Accordingly, Mrs Thatcher would like the Question held over not least because it is clear that a short deferment would not affect the issue.~~]

2. ~~Q~~That said, the Prime Minister agrees that withdrawing the Question at this late stage might create more problems than it would dispel ~~it~~. But Mrs Thatcher would be grateful if all ~~the~~ further action and announcements (including that on which DES consulted me last week) could be held back until she has seen the policy statements.

3. I am copying this letter to Imogen Wilde (DES), Adam Peat (Welsh Office), John Lyon (Northern Ireland Office), David Heyhoe (Lord President's Office) and to Elizabeth Thoms (Rayner unit).

T. FLESHER



27 JUL 1982
11 12 1
B O R
L G S
K A



B

Education

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-928 9222

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Sir Derek Rayner
Management and Personnel Office
Whitehall
London SW1A 2AZ

27 October 1982

DF

27/10/82

Dear Derek,

I understand that you would prefer me not to announce the decisions to publish HMI reports of formal inspections and to have brand new arrangements for follow-up action taken by my Department or myself (not HMI), until I publish the policy document following the Scrutiny.

I cannot see that it would reduce the impact of the policy document, if that were to refer to the new arrangements for publication and follow-up as something already announced. But I am very reluctant to hold up the new arrangements which we all agree are important for the central aim of higher standards. We must reckon on at least another month before the policy document can be issued: I must give you and subsequently the Prime Minister time to consider it, and I must then, in accordance with the agreed drill, give the Trade Union Side here a little time to comment on it.

The Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts is likely to take an increasing interest in the publication of HMI Reports. I see political disadvantage in appearing to drag my feet and to have this change forced on me under Parliamentary pressure. I told the Select Committee in July that I was considering publication; indeed I asked my officials to pursue this idea soon after I took up my present office.

I hope very much that you will withdraw your objection to my announcing the new publication and follow-up arrangements in advance of the publication of the policy document.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and the Secretaries of State for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and the Lord President.

Yours,
Keith



27 OCT 1982

JP

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 October 1982

PUBLICATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF HMI REPORTS

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 21 October to Adam Peat and has asked me to write to you as follows.

Mrs. Thatcher is in general agreement with the direction taken by the proposed Answer next Thursday, but she would prefer to consider it alongside the draft policy statement which was promised as the next step in your letter to Willie Rickett of 17 June. Mrs. Thatcher also thinks that it would be more appropriate for Ministers' conclusions on the scrutiny reports, which affect Scotland and Wales as well as England, to be announced en bloc.

The Prime Minister would accordingly be grateful if the Answer could be suspended until she has had an opportunity to see the draft policy statement.

Mrs. Thatcher has the following points on the text itself:

- In the first sentence of the Answer, she would prefer the text to read: "..... institutions concerned, deprives parents and others of information which is of interest".
- Mrs. Thatcher would prefer the third sentence to read: "Citizens, including parents, those who pay for the inspected institutions through rates and taxes and others who use them should also have the right to see these assessments."
- The first line in the second paragraph should read: "..... introduce more systematic arrangements for following-up implementation, in the"
- In the note on procedures, the Prime Minister is firmly of the view that copies of reports should be made available from the Education Departments, since these are the issuing authorities. She would prefer paragraphs 6 and 7 to be amended in this sense, to establish and protect the right of access.

/ I am copying

I am copying this letter to Adam Peat (Welsh Office), John Lyon (Northern Ireland Office), Muir Russell (Scottish Office), David Hayhoe (Lord President's Office) and Elizabeth Thoms (Rayner Unit).

(TIM FLESHER)

Mrs. Imogen Wilde,
Department of Education and Science.



SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

Prime Minister:

You will recall indicating that DES should not announce their proposals for publication of HMI reports until a policy document on the whole Rayner scrutiny was ready. The Scottish Office jumped the gun and tabled an arranged Question: this letter seeks a dispensation for this earlier decision to answer it. Mr Prestrey's advice is fringed at A. (In my view, the Scots should be rebuked, but) it is not worth embarrassing them by making them withdraw an obviously arranged Question.

T Flesher Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Since the answer should now go ahead - not.

PUBLICATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF HMI REPORTS

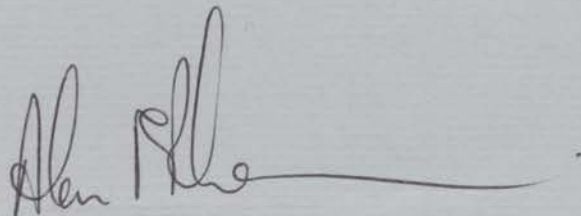
Imogen Wilde wrote to you on 21^{attached} October about her Secretary of State's intention to announce on Thursday this week his decision to make public HMI reports on schools and colleges and to institute a new procedure for following up these reports. I understand that the Prime Minister has expressed doubts about making such an announcement in advance of other decisions following the Rayner review of the Inspectorate. *Do you agree?*

27/10
Yes
mf

We were not aware of the hold-up to the DES question in time to consider delaying our parallel question being put down and it has appeared in today's order paper for answer on Thursday. Our view is that we should answer the question fully on the basis that the difficulties which DES have encountered do not apply in Scotland. To allow the question to lapse on prorogation or to ask the MP to withdraw it could attract attention from the Lobby and from the Opposition and any press enquiries would quickly reveal that consultations have already started in Scotland - the Scottish Education Department wrote earlier this month to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and other bodies to tell them of the intention to publish reports with effect from some time next year and to consult them about the procedure for publication. It was agreed at an earlier stage of the Rayner Review that these reports should be published and this would not have any manpower implications in Scotland.

I attach a draft reply and should be grateful to have your agreement to its terms by close of play on Wednesday.

I have sent a copy of this letter and enclosures to Imogen Wilde (DES)
Adam Peat (Welsh Office), John Lyon (Northern Ireland Office),
David Heyhoe (Lord President's Office) and to Sir Derek Rayner.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alan McPherson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ALAN McPHERSON
Private Secretary

PROPOSED QUESTION

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has now completed his consideration of the possibility of publishing reports on educational establishments by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools.

SUGGESTED REPLY

I intend that publication of these reports should be introduced in the course of next year. I am consulting the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and other interested bodies about the procedure to be adopted.

A handwritten signature or set of initials in dark ink, located in the lower right quadrant of the page. The signature is stylized and appears to consist of a large 'V' or 'W' shape with a horizontal line underneath.

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PUBLICATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF REPORTS BY HM INSPECTORS OF
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1. Thank you for consulting me about the proposed Answer 25/10.
for next Thursday, 28 October.

2. The last occasion on which the Prime Minister was
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her have this in due course".

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customary exercises with the press. I attach a leader from
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C PRIESTLEY
25 October 1982

Encs: Extract from Times,
23 October
Draft letter to Mrs Wilde

Mrs Imogen Wilde
Department of Education
and Science

PUBLICATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF HMI REPORTS

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3. The Prime Minister would accordingly be grateful if the Answer could be suspended until she has had an opportunity to see the draft policy statement. [~~As this was promised four months ago, I assume that this will be with us very soon.~~]

4. Mrs Thatcher has the following points on the text itself:
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5. I am copying this to Adam Peat (Welsh Office), John Lyon (Northern Ireland Office), Muir Russell (Scottish Office), David Hayhoe (Lord President's Office) and Elizabeth Thoms (Rayner Unit).

T FLESHER

The "great debate" about the state-maintained schools inaugurated some five years ago by Mr James Callaghan was a nine-day wonder. On the tenth day the schools were by-passed by the decision surreptitiously to hand a huge share of social and educational responsibility to that unique corporate creation of the 1970s, the Manpower Services Commission. Yet Mr Callaghan's debate has had at least one lasting result. The debate itself on the quality of education was fomented by and in turn has reinvigorated a confused but immensely useful body of civil servants, Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools.

In recent years the HMIs have begun to slough off the superficial educational enthusiasms of the 1960s and once again to assume a judicial stance: they can now say there are bad teachers. Under the leadership of the senior chief inspector, Miss Sheila Browne, they have survived the attentions of Sir Derek Rayner. And in a recent sequence of site inspections of education authorities - which ought to be continued with vigour - they have found a remarkably clear voice.

This week in a report on the schools and colleges of Dudley in the West Midlands the HMIs demonstrated the true independence that is the justification for maintaining such a corps. They told both their paymasters at the Department of Education and Science and parents and the public that reductions in spending do reduce the quality of schooling: cuts hurt. But there was courage also in the HMIs' portrayal of how exaggerated have been the educational lobbies' recent cries of anguish,

how flexible are the schools and how many of the failings of secondary education in state comprehensives were present long before Sir Keith Joseph arrived on the scene.

Schools in Dudley, the inspectors said, are "now at the edge of what can be done within present levels of funding". This is a clear message not just to Sir Keith, but also to Mr Michael Heseltine whose targets and grant formulae loyally Tory Dudley has been assiduous in observing. The Dudley report is now being used, along with other recent HMI documents, to beat the heads of ministers and other rate support grant negotiators. This is how it should be - provided policy makers read in conjunction with the HMI report the conclusions of the management consultants Dudley have prudently asked to examine various aspects of costs and administration in its scholastic system.

The inspectorate is now better trained and more knowledgeable about the schooling of less able secondary age children. Its very existence makes governments live with potential embarrassment and tribute is due to recent ministries in opening up inspectors' reports to public gaze. Reports will sometimes be ammunition for the National Union of Teachers and spending lobbies of one kind and another. Reports are a continual reminder, too, of how the state schools still fail many of their children in the middle and lower ability ranges, fail to stretch, fail to motivate them, fail to provide - the new 16-plus examination is sadly unlikely to change this - a worthwhile school-leaving certificate. Such facts are unpalatable, but they are not necessarily tied to the present government's

financial restraint, nor do they necessarily lead, as the reports of central government inspectors led in the nineteenth century, to the growth of government involvement as the cure-all.

For what the Dudley report implicitly, and other HMI reports explicitly, show is that the problems of British schools have as much to do with the effective management of available resources as any increase in either money or teacher numbers. The key indicator of inputs to education, the ratio of pupils to teachers, is still favourable. The role of the inspectors is to investigate local discrepancies; the role of the Department of Education is to work for a more even distribution of available resources. The department should be asking for a succession of reports like that on Dudley's provision.

The list should also include better-endowed authorities, those that spend more. The nature of the British system of central departments and local authorities does not allow there to be inspectors of cost working alongside inspectors of educational quality, but the government does have levers it can pull to produce quantitative indicators to match the inspectors' judgments. In this way Dudley's expenditure should be compared with Sutton's and linked through the HMIs' assessment of their pupils' performance, their stocks of school books, their provision for slow learners.

Mr Callaghan's debate was meant to open the "secret garden" of the school curriculum; it partly succeeded. It is time for the inspectors to lead the way into the mysterious world of educational effectiveness.

Gov Mack

Rayner



cf. c. Priestley

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-928 9222

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Adam Peat Esq
Private Secretary to the Secretary of State
for Wales
Welsh Office
Gwydyr House
Whitehall
London
SW1

21 October 1982

Dear Adam,

PUBLICATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF HMI REPORTS

My Secretary of State is proposing to announce on Thursday 28 October his decisions to make publicly available HMI reports of formal inspections of institutions and to institute a new procedure for following up such reports in relation to maintained schools and FE institutions providing full-time education for students aged 16-18.

I enclose a copy of the draft Question and Answer announcing these decisions.

The first stage of implementing the decisions will be to embark on consultations with the local authority and teacher organisations, the voluntary bodies, the independent sector and other interested bodies on the procedures for giving them practical effect. I attach a copy of draft consultation letters on publication and follow-up.

You will see that the proposed Parliamentary Statement and consultation letters are confined to England. I should be grateful, however, for any comments on the text by Monday next, 25 October, at 1 pm.

I am copying this letter and enclosures to Willie Rickett (No 10), John Lyon (Northern Ireland Office), Muir Russell (Scottish Office) and David Heyhoe (Lord President's Office).

*Yours ever,
Imogen Wilde*

MRS I WILDE
Private Secretary

DRAFT ARRANGED PQ

QUESTION: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Science, whether he will now make public the reports made to him by Her Majesty's Inspectorate on their formal inspections of educational institutions which he now issues in confidence; what arrangements he proposes for following up such reports; and if he will make a statement.

ANSWER: The current practice of issuing such reports in confidence to the maintaining authority or the proprietor, the governors, and the head or principal of the institutions concerned, deprives the education system and its clients of information which is of interest and concern to them. Knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses revealed in the Inspectorate's independent assessments is valuable to those institutions who are not for the time being the subject of such assessments, to the local authorities who maintain them, and to those working in the education system as teachers, governors, teacher trainers, and in other capacities, as a means of spreading good practice and fresh thinking and identifying and correcting shortcomings. The ratepayers and taxpayers who support the inspected institutions, and the parents and others who use them, should also have a right of access to these assessments. I have therefore decided to give public access to all reports on formal inspections which issue from January 1983 onwards.

I have also decided to introduce more systematic arrangements, in the first instance for following up reports of formal inspections of maintained schools and FE institutions providing full-time education for students aged 16-18 inclusive.

The procedures for giving effect to these decisions must take account of the formal position of those responsible for, and working in, the institutions reported on and of the fact that the reports are issued to specified persons. To this end I am consulting the local authority and teacher associations and other interested bodies about the procedural details.

DRAFT CONSULTATION LETTER ON PUBLICATION

1. I enclose a copy of a Statement made by the Secretary of State in Parliament onannouncing his decision to give public access to formal reports by Her Majesty's Inspectorate on individual institutions issued from 1 January 1983 onwards.
2. I also attach a note setting out the Secretary of State's proposals for the procedural details.
3. I should be glad to know if you have any comments on this note. It would be helpful to have your response by 30 November.

PROCEDURES FOR MAKING PUBLIC REPORTS OF FORMAL INSPECTIONS

Present position

1. Reports of formal inspections by HM Inspectorate to the Secretary of State are normally issued only to the LEA, proprietor, or other maintaining body, to the governors and heads or principal of the institutions concerned, and, in the case of a school which is not maintained, to any LEA which has placed pupils in it. They are issued under the following rubric:

"This report is supplied in confidence. Its contents may not, without the written consent of the Department of Education and Science, be disclosed, in whole or in part, except as provided below.

Copies of this report are supplied to the local education authority* governing body, and the head or principal, responsible for the school or institution named as reported upon. The head or principal may disclose its contents, either in whole or part, to members of the staff, and for that purpose further copies of the report will be made available to the head or principal on application to the Department."

2. There is also a reference to copyright in the following terms:

"Crown Copyright. No parts of this report may be copied or photocopied."

Procedures proposed for the future

3. Such reports will continue to be issued to the present recipients. They will continue to be based on the evidence collected, and the observations made, in the course of the inspection, and will express the Inspectorate's findings with the same frankness as at present. The Inspectorate will also continue the present practices for discussing the findings with the institutions inspected and the LEA, proprietor or other maintaining body before

the issue of the report. The gist of the report will thus continue to be known to those most closely concerned well in advance of its issue.

4. Additionally however those responsible should have an opportunity to see the report itself in advance of its wider release. It is therefore proposed to make reports publicly available a week after sending them to the direct addressees. In the case of a report on a maintained institution, the LEA concerned would receive a minimum number of copies previously agreed with the LEA concerned and would be asked to say if it required additional copies (see paragraph 6 below).

5. On the day of publication:

- (1) A copy of the issued report would be sent to the national press and other media, and to the press and media concerned with the area in question.
- (2) Since any issued report could raise professional issues of concern to teachers generally a copy would be sent to each national teacher organisation, so as to ensure that all were put on an equal footing.

6. In the case of maintained institutions it would be made clear to the press and others that the maintaining LEA would normally be expected to meet demands from individuals for a copy of the report; and it would be up to each LEA to decide how far to make available copies for reference by the public and others eg at public libraries and at the inspected institution. For this purpose the LEA would be supplied with additional copies on request. In the case of an

institution not maintained by a LEA, it would be made clear that copies were available at the institution and additional copies for this purpose would be supplied to the institution by arrangement.

7. Copies would in addition be available at the DES on request in cases where it would be unreasonable to direct the applicant to the maintaining LEA or, in the case of an institution not maintained by a LEA, the institution.

8. The present rubric on reports would be replaced by the following:

"Crown copyright: Department of Education and Science. You need not seek the permission of the Department to reproduce from this report in part or in full unless it is to be copied^d for a commercial purpose."

9. At 6-monthly intervals the Inspectorate propose to publish a short appraisal of those issues arising from the issued reports made public in the preceding 6 months which are likely to be of general interest to the education system and its clients.

4. It would be for the LEA to decide what action was appropriate in the light of each report; and how the various aspects of the report's findings should be covered in the reply to the Department. The Secretary of State would wish to know if the LEA disagreed with the findings so that any such disagreement could be appropriately explored, for example by discussion between HM Inspectorate and the LEA's professional officers. It would not be appropriate for the Department to seek to monitor in detail the follow-up action undertaken by the LEA and the institutions it maintains. But the Secretary of State would wish to know first that, where the LEA accepted the validity of the report's findings, it was taking appropriate action so that the findings, as far as was practicable, might be applied to improve the quality and effectiveness of education in its area; and, second, what in the opinion of the LEA the Department might for its part do to assist the LEA in relation to such action.

5. With these objectives in mind the Secretary of State proposes himself to take up with the LEA matters arising out of a report which are of exceptional concern or importance.

6. When a report relates to a voluntary school, it may be appropriate for the Department to communicate also with the voluntary body concerned. In such a case the Department would inform the maintaining LEA and the governors and head teacher of the school.

7. I should be glad to receive comments on the details of the procedures set out in this letter. It would be helpful to have comments by 30 November .

22 OCT 1992



Mr Flesher.



Mrs Wilde (2914-2440)

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

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Sir Derek Rayner
Management and Personnel
Office
Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

I have to sponsor MW Beasley
AS/10

22 September 1982

Mr Flesher (No 10)

Please see this letter and the note below. I have it in mind to ask Sir DR to reply along the lines of the attached draft. Would that safeguard the Prime Minister's position sufficiently? *B 1/2*

Dear Derek

SCRUTINY OF HM INSPECTORATE OF SCHOOLS

Thank you for your letter of 7 September. I do not envisage that there will be an action document separate from the policy statement on which we are now working. We shall produce only one document, whose scope I have indicated to you previously. We are calling it a policy statement because, given the subject matter and nature of the exercise, it will go wider than, and subsume, the action document of the kind usually produced after a Scrutiny. The policy statement will make it clear that its proposals for action follow the scrutiny.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister and to the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales.

Yours,

Kain

Mr. Beasley

For advice, please. You might have a word with Mr. Flesher and see how, in the light of what Mr. ... including the PM's on-the-record remarks from October 1980, the PM is likely to react.

SP

DRAFT

SCRUTINY OF INSPECTORATE OF SCHOOLS

Thank you for your letter of 22 September. I do not want to prolong the agony but I should be grateful for your reassurance on two points:

- It would have been helpful if I could have commented upon the draft policy statement before you went out to consultation. But as that no longer seems possible, can I be sure that I will have the opportunity to give you my reaction before it is finalised?

- I am anxious that the policy statement should pick up the points which the Prime Minister requested be given priority and reflected in the policy statement and action document (her private secretary's letter of 14 June) or, preferably, that there should be a separate action document indicating who is doing what (and by when) to meet the requirements. I should want to be assured, on her behalf, that there really will be changes of the kind desired.

I understand that the policy statement may not be ready until late October. There should therefore be time to take on

board both of these points. If it would be helpful I should be happy for Clive Priestley or Ian Beesley to come over and settle these matters with your officials.

Derek Rayner

Gow Mack

Rayner Programme

AT 12



Govt. Mach.

Prime Minister (4)

MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL OFFICE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Mus 8/9

Telephone Direct line 01-273 3508
GTN 273
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7 September 1982

The Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph Bt MP
Secretary of State for Education
and Science

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten signature: Sir Keith]

SCRUTINY OF HM INSPECTORATE OF SCHOOLS

Thank you for your letter of 27 August. ^{requested} I am glad to hear that work on the policy statement is now further advanced and that I may expect to see a draft shortly. I assume that the timetable will allow for you to take on board my comments before you go out to consultation.

I am glad, too, to learn that the Department has taken on board the substance of the report. We need to agree on the action document indicating what is to be done by whom on what time scale as a result of the scrutiny; it would be convenient if I might see the action document no later than the draft policy statement.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister and to the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales.

[Handwritten signature: Derek Rayner]

Derek Rayner



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-928 9222

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Sir Derek Rayner
Management and Personnel Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AZ

Pa MG
See Mac

27 AUGUST 1982

Thank you for your letter of 19 August.

Work on the policy statement is well in hand and I hope to let you see a draft within the next few weeks. But before the policy statement is published, we must have consultations with the local authorities on those actions that affect them; those concerning the local authority advisory service, and publication of inspection reports and follow-up. The time needed for consultation means that I should expect to publish the policy statement in late October.

It would be wrong to assume, however, that nothing will move until the policy statement is published. In their programme of work, HMI have already taken on board the substance of the report, and especially the actions listed in paragraph 15 of your submission to the Prime Minister, except where we have to consult the local authorities.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister and to the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales.



Cast Mch
FC 50

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

TK
22/7

Sir Derek Rayner
Management and Personnel Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AZ

22 July 1982

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 28 June. I share your concern that no more time should be lost. Work on the policy statement is going ahead as quickly as possible.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Wales, the Lord Privy Seal, the Minister for Industry and Education in Scotland and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours,

Kew