



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE  
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*Handwritten mark*

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

T Flesher Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

*Prime Minister:*

4 March 1983

*This is a  
considerable improvement.  
Agree to its issue?*

*Dear Jim,*

*Yes*

RAYNER SCRUTINY OF HMI IN ENGLAND AND WALES

*JK 4/3*

Thank you for your letter of 14 February conveying the Prime Minister's comments on the drafts of a Written Answer, a Policy Statement and a booklet.

I now enclose a revised draft of the Written Answer which takes into account the Prime Minister's points and, as you will see, has been considerably shortened. I look forward to hearing whether the Prime Minister is content.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Muir Russell (Scottish Office), Adam Peat (Welsh Office) and Christopher Joubert (Rayner Unit).

*Yours ever*

*Inogen Wilde*

MRS I WILDE  
Private Office



DRAFT WRITTEN ANSWER TO ACCOMPANY PUBLICATION OF DETAILED POLICY STATEMENT ON HMI

1. My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for Wales and I are today publishing a policy statement on the functions and future operations of HM Inspectorate. This follows the completion in 1981 of a Scrutiny of the Inspectorate within the programme coordinated by Lord Rayner, the report of which is also being published. Copies of both documents are available in the vote office.
2. We are all aware that, despite much dedicated effort, standards of education need to be improved. Families as well as the education system have a vital part to play. Much can be and is being done to improve the performance of our schools and colleges and their ability to ensure that each pupil receives an education appropriate to his or her needs both as an individual and in relation to the society in which he or she will live.
3. This Government has given a vigorous lead. We have increased parental choice and are taking steps to improve the quality of the teacher force. We have asked LEAs to review their policies for the school curriculum and have launched pilot projects for the 40% of pupils for whom external examinations are not generally appropriate. We are taking steps to improve the system of examinations at 16+ and 18+ and for the pre-vocational education of those over compulsory school age. Our new initiative in the provision of technical and vocational education will start in September.
4. In this task of securing higher standards, the Inspectorate plays an important and effective role which this Government intends to strengthen. Its effectiveness depends on a sound and up to date knowledge of the education system, a proper sense of standards and the choice of priority targets. Inspection needs to be directed not only towards current policy concerns but particularly to the safeguarding for all children of suitable education opportunities. The Inspectorate continues to be much occupied with improving the effectiveness of the initial training of teachers and their induction into the service; with the changes needed to meet new



demands arising from technological change and youth unemployment; and with the effective education of ethnic minority pupils and of children with special needs.

5. But none of the Inspectorate's activities can have its full effect on the education system without the understanding and action of those who have responsibility for providing education. The Inspectorate can help them understand better how far the system on the ground matches the legitimate aspirations of the community and provides value for money. To this end the Inspectorate's audit function will be more sharply focussed through the recently introduced programme of whole LEA inspections as well as inspections of individual institutions.

6. Formal inspections will continue at their current rate of some 260 each year in England and Wales. The publication of the Inspectorate's reports is being speeded up and, most importantly of all, since the beginning of this year we have made those reports publicly available and have introduced more systematic arrangements for ensuring effective follow-up.

7. Copies of the policy statement are being sent to each local education authority and to a wide range of other bodies.



Gov Mach Rayner #13

MAR 20 1951

U.S. AIR FORCE  
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



cc SO  
WO  
Rayner  
Unit

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

7 March 1983

Thank you for your letter of 4 March enclosing a draft Written Answer to accompany the publication of the detailed Policy Statement on H.M. Inspectorate. Subject to the comment which I passed on to you by telephone for your consideration, the Prime Minister is content that the Answer should issue as proposed.

I am copying this letter to Muir Russell (Scottish Office), Adam Peat (Welsh Office) and Christopher Joubert (Rayner Unit).

Tim Flesher

Mrs. Imogen Wilde,  
Department of Education and Science.

*ls*



Sort  
Mech  
writing.



Pa.

MR FLESHER

*[Handwritten initials]*  
7/3

DRAFT WRITTEN ANSWER ON SCRUTINY OF HMI  
IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Mr Priestley would prefer the answer  
to read according to the attached redraft  
of Mrs Wilde's draft.

*[Handwritten signature]*

C J P JOUBERT

Rayner Unit

7 March 1983

DRAFT WRITTEN ANSWER TO ACCOMPANY PUBLICATION OF DETAILED  
POLICY STATEMENT ON HMI

1. My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Wales and I are today publishing a policy statement on the functions and future operations of HM Inspectorate. This follows the completion in 1981 of a Scrutiny of the Inspectorate within the programme co-ordinated by Lord Rayner, the report of which is also being published. Copies of both documents are available in the vote office.
2. The only acceptable way of carrying out the work of the education service is effectively and with full value-for-money obtained from the huge resources involved. The Inspectorate has a vital task to perform as auditor on behalf of Ministers and the nation as a whole; of every family that has children at school; and of the children themselves. Its effectiveness depends on its having comprehensive and up-to-date information about provision in schools and colleges; knowledge of the standards required; and a sense of priorities. Currently the Inspectorate is particularly concerned with improving the effectiveness of the initial training of teachers and their induction into the service; the changes needed to meet demands arising from technological change and youth unemployment; and with the effective education of ethnic minority pupils and of children with special needs.
3. We are all aware that, despite much dedicated effort, standards of education need to be improved. Families as well as the education system have a vital part to play. Much can be and is being done to improve the performance of our schools and colleges and their ability to ensure that each pupil receives an education appropriate to his or her needs, both as an individual and in relation to the society in which he or she lives.



4. This Government has given a vigorous lead. We have increased parental choice and are taking steps to improve the quality of the teacher force. We have asked LEAs to review their policies for the school curriculum and have launched pilot projects for the 40 per cent of pupils for whom external examinations are not generally appropriate. We are taking steps to improve the system of examinations at 16+ and 18+ and for the pre-vocational education of those over compulsory school age. Our new initiative in the provision of technical and vocational education will start in September.
5. None of the Inspectorate's activities can have its full effect on the education system without the understanding and action of those who have responsibility for providing education. The Inspectorate can help them understand better how far the system on the ground matches the legitimate aspirations of the community and provides value for money. To this end the Inspectorate's audit function will be more sharply focussed through the recently introduced programme of whole LEA inspections as well as inspections of individual institutions.
6. Formal inspections will continue at their current rate of some 260 a year in England and Wales. Most importantly of all, since the beginning of this year we have made the Inspectorate's reports publicly available and have introduced more systematic arrangements for ensuring effective follow-up. The publication of the reports is being speeded up.
7. Copies of the policy statement are being sent to each local education authority and to a wide range of other bodies.