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David Edmonds Esq
 Private Secretary
 Department of the Environment
 Marsham Street
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1278 5 August 1980

Dear David.

CODE OF PRACTICE ON PICKETING AND THE CLOSED SHOP

Mr Prior was grateful to your Secretary of State for his letter of 18 July. He is glad that Mr Heseltine found the guidance on procedures in the Code on the closed shop sensible and that he was content with the Code on picketing.

Mr Heseltine was concerned that the Code on the closed shop did not make the relevant statutory framework clear enough. We have made a number of minor changes to this section in the light of other comments from colleagues and have also added an annex which deals comprehensively with the definition of closed shops - a matter which is covered by the 1974 and 1976 Trade Union and Labour Relations Act - and how this is to be applied for the special purposes of the Employment Act. Mr Prior hopes this will resolve the problem Mr Heseltine foresaw.

You will note that this section retains its particular reference to the rights of individuals. We think it is correct to give prominence to the rights of individuals in this area because this has been the major concern of our reforms here. Of course these rights carry with them obligations for the other parties concerned, employers and unions, but we believe this is well understood.

I am copying this reply to the recipients of your Secretary of State's letter.

Jo

Richard Dykes

RICHARD DYKES
 Principal Private
 Secretary

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