

SUBJECT.

CF



cc D/Emp

HL

PM

✓. Master set.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 November 1981

Mr. Lawrence Cunliffe, M.P.

The Prime Minister was grateful to Mr. Wakeham for joining her yesterday when she met Mr. Lawrence Cunliffe.

Mr. Cunliffe had asked for a "closures" meeting in respect of the David Brown factory in his constituency. Mr. Cunliffe acknowledged that there was not now to be a closure, but only a temporary close down in December to reduce stocks.

Against this background, the discussion turned to the more general problems of the textile industry in the area, the young unemployed, and the treatment of Leigh under the Government's regional policy. Little of this needs recording. I should, however, set down the fact that Mr. Cunliffe renewed his request that the Government should review the loss of intermediate status for his area. He felt this particularly necessary because the adjacent Wigan area was being upgraded to development area status, which would affect the Leigh travel-to-work area. Mr. Wakeham pointed out that there were unlikely to be changes at this stage in cases where an area had been moved only one place in classification.

Mr. Cunliffe also raised the problem of the registering as unemployed of white collar workers who had taken retirement at 60. The Prime Minister agreed that there was a need to look further at different ways of classifying such people, and said that she intended to take this up again.

In view of the last point above, I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Dykes (Department of Employment).

M. A. PATTISON

Ian Ellison, Esq.,  
Department of Industry.

SD