

Too late NBPW
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Dear Andrew

A message has reached me that the Prime Minister will this evening attend a dinner also to be attended by Sir Peter Blaker MP. I understand that Mr Lamont met Sir Peter yesterday and during the course of their conversation the issue of the Travel to Work Area (TTWA) in which Blackpool is situated arose.

This is of interest primarily because Assisted Areas are defined using TTWAs. I understand that DTI have already sent you a note on Regional Policy as it affects Sir Peter's constituency. ... The enclosed note on the Travel to Work Area may also be of some help.

I am copying this letter to Mr Trippier's office as I understand he will also be attending the dinner.

Yours sincerely
Judith Rutherford

JUDITH RUTHERFORD
Private Secretary

TRAVEL-TO-WORK AREA REVIEW

1 Travel-to-Work Areas (TTWAs) represent an approximate division of the country into self-contained labour market areas, ie areas within which most people live and also work, and vice versa. They are also the smallest geographical areas for which the Department of Employment publishes percentage rates of unemployment.

2 TTWAs were reviewed in 1984, using commuting pattern data obtained from the 1981 Census of Population. The results of the review were published in the supplement to the Employment Gazette on 27 September 1984. TTWAs were used as the 'building blocks' for the Assisted Areas drawn up by the Department of Trade and Industry.

3 To qualify as a TTWA, an area had to have self-containment ratios of at least 75% (70% if its working population exceeded 20,000). Self-containment ratios are calculated by dividing the number of people who live in the area and also work there by the total number of workers who live in the area; and, conversely, by dividing the total number of people who work in the area and also live there by the total number of people who work in the area.

4 The Blackpool TTWA is composed of Blackpool and parts of the Fylde and Wyre District Council areas. It is known that Sir Peter would have favoured a smaller TTWA restricted to the immediate vicinity of Blackpool. However the components of the existing TTWA together met the necessary criteria and would not have done so separately. In fact the new TTWA is very similar to, and slightly smaller than, the previous TTWA area.