



DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

1-19 VICTORIA STREET

LONDON SW1H 0ET

Telephone (Direct dialling) 01-215 4301

GTN 215

(Switchboard) 215 7877

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary
of State for Industry

JOHN BUTCHER MP

Sean Hughes Esq MP
House of Commons
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Prime Minister (2)
For information, following up is your
meeting with Sean Hughes MP.

25 July 1985

MEA 26/7

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Dear Sean,

Following our meeting with the Prime Minister on 19 July to discuss the effects on unemployment in the Knowsley area of Plessey's closure of their Huyton factory, I undertook to write to you with details of the help being given under the various Government schemes for employment and training in the Knowsley area. This help is as follows:

- (a) Industry Act Assistance In the period since 1 April 1983, the Department of Trade and Industry has made 29 offers of selective assistance for projects involving £49M investment in the Knowsley area. The value of these offers amounts to £3.6M with over 3,000 associated jobs either created or safeguarded.
- (b) Small Firms Association The Small Firms Service has a working relationship with the local Enterprise Agency in Knowsley and has offered to organise a Business Advice Night in conjunction with the Agency. Take up of the Enterprise Agency's services has been disappointing and its Board is looking at measures to increase public awareness of what it has to offer.
- (c) Over £300,000 was set aside in Knowsley Borough Council's 1984/85 Urban Programme for grants to assist private sector firms and new businesses. Over £200,000 of this has already been taken up and Knowsley's bid for 1985/86 has been increased to over £500,000.
- (d) Additionally, Knowsley has been invited to put forward private sector schemes under the Urban Development Grant Scheme. So far, three schemes have been taken forward including one for the provision of High Tech Units at Caddick Road, Knowsley Industrial Park with a cost of £308,000.

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pm. Sean Hughes MP NOV 83



- (e) Under the Community Programme, (at 30 June 1985) there were 1375 approved places in the Knowsley MBC Area of which 1144 places were filled; 1224 places were formally contracted to be recruited against.
- (f) As many places under the Youth Training Scheme as are necessary to meet the needs of young people in Knowsley are being made available. In 1984/85 there were 2,039 such places. For 1985/86, 1897 places will be available reflecting the lower level of school leavers expected in that year.

Plessey, Huyton, have already arranged meetings with the local Job Centre team, DHSS, the Enterprise Allowance co-ordinator and Knowsley Enterprise Agency to assist their employees to find new jobs. You are no doubt aware that Plessey have in addition already approached other companies in the region to identify possible vacancies, and they intend to set up two job placement agencies on the Huyton site.

My officials in the Liverpool DTI office in conjunction with the Merseyside Task Force will set up a meeting for you with the Knowsley Borough Council. Perhaps your secretary could contact Mr Anderson (tel: 051-227 4111) to arrange a convenient time. *Notification*

of the D.T.I. officials who will attend, will follow.

Yours sincerely

JH

JOHN BUTCHER



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