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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP  
 Secretary of State for Wales  
 Gwydyr House  
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NBM.

6 June 1986

Dear Nick,

**HMI REPORT**

at Hay PT7.

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 30 May, containing your proposals on the handling of the attached report by HM Inspectorate in Wales.

I share your view that it would be difficult not to publish the document now that the equivalent English document has been published. In my view you have done an excellent job in bringing about a better and fair kind of presentation, and it has certainly been worth the time and thought you have given to it.

I share your misgivings about the publication of these reports in their present form. Some of what they say about the need for improved management and teaching quality is very helpful, but they do tend to give the impression that all that matters is to spend more, with scant recognition either of the substantial increase in expenditure per pupil which has already taken place or of the importance of getting better value for money for each pound spent.

One might have hoped that the Inspectorate would have seen it as part of their task to explore whether value for money was being achieved from that increase before implying that further increases were needed. I therefore support your suggestion that the possibility of moving to a more balanced publication should be examined. I hope that Kenneth Baker will also consider the case for changing the parallel English report along similar lines.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of the Cabinet, David Swinton, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

JOHN MacGREGOR



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