



Prime Minister

A.S.C. 23/3

Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NA  
Telephone Direct Line 01-213.....6400.....  
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John Coles Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

22 March 1983

Dear Mr Coles

I understand that the Prime Minister has asked urgently for information on the current allowances paid to young people on Government training schemes in Britain and Germany, and how these compare with average wages.

Allowances under the Youth Opportunities Programme are currently £25 per week. The same allowance will, subject to a review this summer, be paid under the Youth Training Scheme which will replace YOP progressively from 1 April. £25 is 21% of the latest (October 1982) figure of average earnings for manual employees in manufacturing industry (£119.50).

In Germany, the Federal Employment Institute (Bundesanstalt) run a range of somewhat similar courses, but catering for much smaller numbers. The current (means tested) allowance is 275 DM a month (at the current exchange rate, about £18.30 per week). This is 11% of the average earnings for manual employees in manufacturing.

Figures please Mr

The ratio between training allowances and apprentice wages in the two countries is, however, more nearly comparable, since apprentice wages are relatively much lower in Germany than here.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Sir Robert Armstrong's office.

Yours Sincerely  
Jeremy Everiss

MS F M EVERISS  
Private Secretary



FILE

SW

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

28 March, 1983

BT-

Germany: Training Schemes for Young People

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 22 March. She would be grateful if you could provide figures to illustrate the statement, in your final paragraph, that "the ratio between training allowances and apprentice wages in the two countries is, however, more nearly comparable, since apprentice wages are relatively much lower in Germany than here.

I am copying this letter to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

Ms. F. M. Everiss,  
Department of Employment

NR



Time Director

Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NAF

A.S.C. 31/3.

Telephone Direct Line 01-213...6400.....

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John Coles Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1

MS

31 MAR 1965

Dear Mr Coles

GERMANY: TRAINING SCHEMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Thank you for your letter of 28 March.

In the United Kingdom the Youth Training Scheme allowance of £25 a week is 57% of the average wage rate for first year apprentices. In Germany, the allowance for Bundesanstalt courses is 68% of first year apprentice rates. Apprenticeships in Germany cover a much wider range of occupations, including many at the lower end of the earnings scale. I attach a note showing how the figures are derived.

As I explained in my letter of 22 March, Bundesanstalt courses provide for comparatively small numbers of young people.

Yours Sincerely

Felix Everiss

MS F M EVERISS  
Private Secretary

	<u>UK</u>	<u>GERMANY</u>
A. Allowance	£25 per week	275 DM a month
B. Wage rates for first year apprentices	£43.70 (average, for key selected industries)	400 DM a month (average, all industries)
C. A as a % of B	57%	<del>49%</del> ? misprint

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 April 1983

GERMANY : TRAINING SCHEMES FOR  
YOUNG PEOPLE

Thank you for your letter of 31 March which I have shown to the Prime Minister.

BE 1

I wonder if the figure of 49% in the enclosure is accurate? It does not seem to relate to the two other figures therein quoted for Germany.

A. J. COLES

Ms F.M. Everiss,  
Department of Employment.

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MC



Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NF

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John Coles Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

5 April 1983

*Dear John* *mm* *7/4*

GERMANY: TRAINING SCHEMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Thank you for your letter of 5 April.

The figure of 49% in the enclosure, as you so acutely observed, was a typing mistake. It should have been 68%, as in the accompanying letter. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

*Yours L*  
*Brett Bonner*

BRETT BONNER  
Private Secretary