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ECSC GRANTS OF £6.2M FOR COAL AND STEEL EMPLOYEES

New financial assistance from European Coal and Steel Community Funds has been announced to help workers in the British coal and steel industries. The money is to be used for various measures to help employees whose jobs have disappeared.

A total of 3 767 workers in the coal industry, who have lost their jobs as part of the modernisation programme, should benefit from aid of £4.67m. Their pits closed in 1978. In Scotland 1 385 people are affected; in the North-East of England 450 people; in North Derbyshire 520 people; in South Wales 251 people; in South Yorkshire 303 and at Barnsley 188.

For steel workers at Ebbw Vale, Ravenscraig and Rotherham who are affected by changes in manufacturing methods, a total of £1 503 250 has been set aside. This is to help 2 480 people, some of whom will be redeployed within the British Steel Corporation.

The other grants are £23 000 for workers affected by the closure of the Spartan Works in Birmingham of Spartan Redheugh Ltd and £12 000 for redundancies at Edgar Allen Balfour Steels Ltd.