

ISEC/20/81

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£5.04M READAPTATION GRANTS FOR MINERS, £1.3M FOR STEEL WORKERS

UNDER ECSC FUNDS

Coal

The European Commission has announced readaptation grants totalling £5 040 000 to finance measures to help workers in the British coal industry who were affected by pit closures and partial closures in the United Kingdom last year. A total of 2 426 workers are covered by the schemes.

The collieries completely closed are as follows:

Scottish area:	Roger (55 jobs lost)
North East area:	Eccles (284)
	Eden (115)
North Notts area:	Teversal (132)
South Wales area:	Blaenavon (51)
	Fernhill (35)

Partial closures at other collieries affected 1 454 workers, and there was a rundown of 300 non-industrial staff who are covered by the readaptation schemes.

Steel

The following readaptation grants have been agreed in the steel industry:

1. Sheffield, S. Yorkshire - £1 060 000

For 918 workers affected by the closure of the Atlas Mill of Firth Brown Ltd.

2. Dagenham - £50 000

Additional assistance to schemes for 457 workers affected by the closure over the last two years of the furnace and coke ovens of the Ford Motor Co Ltd. Grants of £438 000 have been made already.

3. Darlington - £190 000

For 115 workers affected by the partial closure of the South works, where the mills are 50 years old and manually operated.

Readaptation grants

The readaptation grants are made under Article 56 of the European Coal and Steel Community. They will be used to help fund current schemes for early retirement, retraining and income support which are administered by the Department of Energy (coal) and Department of Industry (steel).