

Confidential filing

Information about numbers of pupils in schools and numbers of staff employed by local education authorities (L.E.A.'s) with particular reference to administrative staff.

EDUCATION

297

January 1980.

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
4.3.80 10.3.80.							
PREM 19/202							

FILE

VLB

Education

10 March 1980

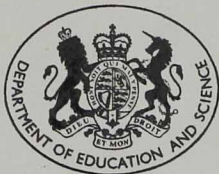
Thank you for your letter of 7 March, with some further information about staff numbers in the education field.

The Prime Minister was grateful for this.

M. A. PATTISON

R. J. Green, Esq.,
Department of Education and Science.

SP



FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

M A Pattison Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

PRIME MINISTER

A further DES effort to explain teaching/admin staff: you queried the earlier one below.

ELIZABETH HOUSE,
YORK ROAD,
LONDON SE1 7PH
01-928 9222

MAR 7/3

mf

7 March 1980

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your further letter of 4 March about staff numbers.

The answers to your questions are:-

- i. The manpower figures at iii of my previous letter were taken from the quarterly returns of the DOE's Joint Manpower Watch (JMW), which does not distinguish between different kinds of non-teaching staff. It includes them all, whether administrators (a small minority) or others. The expenditure figures at iv are based on separate returns by local authorities and reflect a decline in the number of those employed in educational administration.
- ii. The table enclosed (which should have accompanied my previous letter) gives for March 1977 a breakdown between schools (153,000 excluding school meals) and other sectors. That table is based on an ad hoc survey and no time series is available. But although total numbers of non-teaching staff fell by 10,000 between March 1977 and September 1979, the distribution by sectors is not likely to have changed much.

The JMW showed a rise of 11,000 in the number of full-time and full-time equivalent teachers in schools and lecturers in colleges between March 1975 and September 1979. It does not distinguish between the two categories. According to the separate series of DES figures to which you refer, there was an increase of about 15,000 in the number of full-time and full-time equivalent teachers in maintained primary and secondary schools between January 1975 and January 1980. (This is an estimate, because the January 1980 figures are not yet available.) Over the same

period there was an increase of about 3,000 in the number of full-time lecturers, who play an important part in the staffing of this sector; but we deduce from the JMW and other figures quoted in this paragraph that their numbers fell significantly in the period.

Yours ever,

Robert Green

R J GREEN
Private Secretary

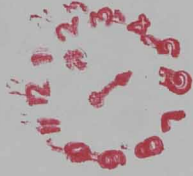
LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY NON-TEACHING STAFF - 1977

FUNCTIONAL BREAKDOWN BY SECTOR IN FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS

	Admin & Clerical	Academic or Educational Support	Premises Related	Catering and Residential	Advisers	Other	Total	%
Schools	22,250	49,300	79,300	1,700		850	153,400	38
Further Education	12,350	19,800	17,750	10,200		3,700	63,800	16
School Meals Service	2,300			118,600	850	22,750*	144,500	36
Other Services (including Child Guidance, Youth Service)	-					11,100	11,100	3
Administration and Inspection	22,650				2,750	900	26,300	7
Total	59,550	69,100	97,050	130,500	3,600	39,300	399,100	100
%	15	17	24	33	1	10	100	

* Includes 20,800 midday supervisors

27 MAR 1960





10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6/P 11-3-80
4 March 1980

You wrote to me on 21 February, with some figures about staff members in the education service. As I mentioned to you today, the Prime Minister has some further queries. I would be grateful for any further light you can shed on these points.

1. Could you explain the relationship between items (iii) and (iv): the former seems to include chief education officers, who are surely administrators, whilst the latter says there are no comparable figures for administrative staff. Do the non-teaching staff in (iii) include all administrators?
2. Is it possible to separate out the non-teaching staff in schools from those elsewhere in the educational service?
3. The Prime Minister has enquired why the figures presented now put teachers and lecturers together: she recalls separate figures.

If you have any problems over these queries, please have a word with me.

M. A. PATTISON

Robert Green, Esq.,
Department of Education and Science.

GP

PRIME MINISTER

You asked for some comparative figures about educational personnel. DES offer the attached response. I set it out in tabular form below, to the extent possible.

	<u>Primary Pupils</u>	<u>Secondary Pupils</u>	<u>Teachers + Lecturers</u>	<u>Non-teaching Staff</u>
1975	(Jan) 5.25 m	(Jan) 3.83 m	(March) 554,000	(March) 433,000
1979	(Jan) 4.88 m	(Jan) 4.14 m	(Sept.) 565,000	(Sept.) 424,000

The administrative staff figures are not available in comparable form, although DES comment in sub-paragraph 4 on the declining cost.

MP There seems some discrepancy between (iii) & (iv) (iii) seems to include CEO's (who are surely admin). (iv) says no comparable figures for admin. Are they included in non-teaching staff above or not?
 A ratio of staff/pupils 1:9?

21 February 1980

(2) Why have we gone to Teachers + lecturers?
 Are all these non-teaching staff in schools?



205

434
212



ELIZABETH HOUSE,
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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

M A Pattison Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

21 February 1980

Dear Mike

You asked me earlier this week for information about numbers of pupils in schools and numbers of staff employed by local education authorities, with particular reference to administrative staff.

Most of the available information about England and Wales was summarised in Mr Carlisle's letters of 30 January to the Chancellor and 31 January to the Prime Minister. In more detail:-

- i. Between January 1975 and January 1979 the number of primary pupils (including under-5's) in England and Wales fell from 5.25 million to 4.88 million and the number of secondary pupils rose from 3.83 million to 4.14 million. In total, there was a fall of about 50,000 or about 0.5 per cent.
- ii. Between March 1975, when DOE first collected the information through the Joint Manpower Watch, and September 1979, the date for which the latest quarterly figures are available, the number of teachers and lecturers (expressed as full time equivalents) in schools and colleges in England and Wales rose from 554,000 to 565,000 or by 2 per cent.
- iii. In the same period the number of non-teaching staff, from chief education officers to cooks, fell from 433,000 to 424,000 or about 2 per cent. Thus total numbers employed by local authorities in education rose by 2,000 or 0.2 per cent, compared with an increase of about 30,000 or 3 per cent in all other local authority services.
- iv. No comparable time series of figures for administrative staff in the education service is available. But the Public Expenditure White Paper to be published next

ELIZABETH ROSS
TOWN HALL
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.



21 FEB 1980

month will show that between 1974-75 and 1978-79 the cost of educational administration in Great Britain, overwhelmingly by local authorities, fell from £363m to £334m, a reduction of 8 per cent when total spending on education fell by 1 per cent.

- v. An ad hoc survey by the Department of non-teaching staff in March 1977 yielded the results shown in the attached table. (The total of 399,000 is slightly less than the figure of 434,000 from the Joint Manpower Watch for the same date because of differences in the factors used for converting part time staff to full time equivalents.) You will see that the total number of administrative and clerical staff was about 60,000 of whom more than half were directly employed in schools and colleges in support of teachers and only just over one third in local authority administration.

I am copying this letter to Martin Hall (Treasury) and to David Edmonds (DOE).

Yours sincerely

R J Green

PP

R J GREEN
Private Secretary



Original held
Pub Ex.

DES	
	Mr Jameson
	✓
C	Mr Syme
O	Mr Hudson
F	Mr Simpson
I	Mr Armstrong
E	Mr Ulrich
S	SC
	Miss Stewart
	Mr Wilson

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
 ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON SE1 7PH
 TELEPHONE 01-928 9222
 FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP
 Prime Minister
 10 Downing Street
 LONDON SW1

31 January 1980
 Miss Dawkins

Dear Prime Minister,

You asked me in Cabinet this morning whether I could make any savings in non-teaching or teaching costs towards the further cuts in education rising to £34m in 1983-84 which Geoffrey Howe was seeking.

The Department of the Environment's Joint Manpower Watch (JMW) figures show that between March 1975, when they were first collected, and September 1979, the date of the last return, the number of non-teaching staff fell by just over 2 per cent. And John Biffen's paper C(80)7 shows that the decisions we took last autumn will mean a further fall of over 15 per cent by 1983-84.

The JMW figures for teachers and lecturers show an increase of just under 2 per cent since 1975; and John Biffen's paper records that our plans already provide for a fall in teacher numbers of more than 10 per cent by 1983-84. As a result the pupil teacher ratio in schools in 1983-84 will be 18.7, the same as it is now.

In the light of these figures I can do no other than stand by the judgement I expressed this morning that any further reductions would not be acceptable because they would mean a fall in educational standards.

I am sending copies of this letter to Geoffrey Howe, John Biffen and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever
Mark

MARK CARLISLE

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Original filed
Subs Ex.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON SE1 7PH
TELEPHONE 01-928 9222
FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

1

DES
Mr Jameson
✓
Mr Syme
Mr Hudson
Mr Atkinson
Mr Ulrich
SC 1
30 January 1980
Mr Clark
Mr Forrester
Secs Clerks

Chancellor of the Exchequer
The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Treasury
Parliament Street
LONDON
SW1P 3AG

Dear Geoffrey,

You asked me yesterday to consider a further reduction in non-teaching staff in the education service rising to 3 per cent by 1983-84, and this is reflected in paragraph 7 of C(80)9.

I have examined this again carefully, but I am clear that, as I indicated yesterday was likely to be my conclusion, this would not be possible without severe damage to education. The following points are relevant:-

- i. Whereas total numbers employed by local authorities in other services have risen by 3 per cent in the last five years, non-teaching staff (despite a growth in pupil and student numbers) have fallen by 2 per cent.
- ii. In the same period the cost of administration in the local authority education service has fallen by 10 per cent, and there are now fewer than 30,000 staff directly employed on educational administration to cope with a budget of £6 billion, nearly a million employees and 10 million pupils and students (and their parents).
- iii. The decisions we have already taken imply a further reduction of 15 per cent in non-teaching staff by 1983-84, a bigger fall either than in the school population or than in other services, in most of which you are seeking no further cuts of this kind.
- iv. Two fifths of non-teaching staff are employed in schools, either in support of teachers (as laboratory assistants, librarians and so) or on the routine but vital upkeep of premises. A further cut here would inevitably mean that teachers would have to undertake more essential non-teaching duties.

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Nearly all the rest are employed either in school meals, where our plans already entail a 20 per cent cut in staffing in 1980-81 itself, or in further education, where there will be further reductions as part of the 5 per cent cut in polytechnics and colleges on which we agreed yesterday.

I am sending copies of this letter to the other members of the Cabinet, Norman Fowler and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever

Mark

MARK CARLISLE

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