

PART FOUR

CONFIDENTIAL FILING

The Prime Minister's visits to Government
Departments.

PRIME MINISTER

Consideration of Regional Visits

PT1: May 1979

PT4: July 1987

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
24.7.87.							
6.V.V7							
29.12.87							
9.3.88.							
14.3.89							
9/9/89							

PREM 19/2808

Papers removed from file

Date 10-9-87

RTA to NW A087/2394
6.8-87

Pm. visits to Govt Dept
pt 4.

Papers removed from file

Date 16.3.89

PERB @ AT

15.3.89

Pr: Vint @ York Dpts

AT 4



He Pm 2001

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

MR. TURNER
CABINET OFFICE

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WALES: COMPANIES HOUSE

As you know, the Prime Minister and Sir Robin discussed the possibilities of a visit by her to Companies House when she next visited Wales. She had planned to do so on 29 September but I thought you would like to know that we have had to reschedule that visit for 17 November. This is because the Secretary of State for Wales was not available on 29 September.

Companies House remains a very strong candidate for the Welsh visit, which we are planning to centre around Cardiff. But we do not now intend to finalise her programme until early October.

CAROLINE SLOCOCK

9 September 1989



file

KKIANL

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBIN BUTLER

PRIME MINISTER'S VISITS TO SOUTH WALES

I wonder whether, in your minute of 4 April, you are being too perfectionist. If the Prime Minister went only to places where it could be guaranteed there would be no demonstrations she would go to very few places indeed. For example, she has visited a number of hospitals outside which there have been small demonstrations and people with placards, shouting slogans but where, once inside, she has received a courteous and even warm reception. From her point of view I doubt if the presence of a minor demonstration outside would be a deterrent though clearly we would not want her, on security grounds, to run into a serious demonstration. I can see, however, that you and the Chief Executive of Companies House are anxious to put on a faultless show. But if you are waiting for the confluence of a demonstration-free establishment and a Prime Ministerial tour to that area you may have to wait a long time.

ANDREW TURNBULL
4 April 1989

KK

Ref. A089/863

MR TURNBULL

Prime Minister's Visit to South Wales

As I mentioned to you I explored with Sir Brian Hayes and Sir Alan Bailey the possibility of the Prime Minister visiting a Civil Service establishment during her visit to South Wales in September, and we concluded that a visit to Companies House would be the best bet. I asked Sir Brian Hayes to explore with the Chief Executive whether such a visit would be likely to attract a demonstration which would dominate the news coverage of the event.

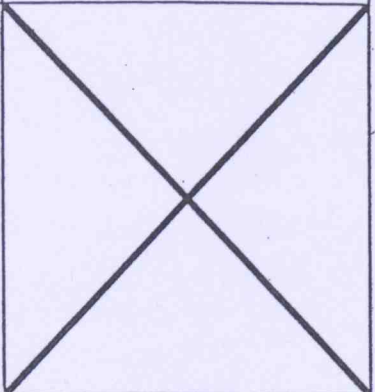
- 2. I attach a note which Mr Curtis has sent to Sir Brian Hayes. He concludes that a demonstration could not be ruled out, though, in the absence of any specific issue arising before the visit, it would be likely to be as muted as anywhere else in South Wales.
3. However, my own feeling is that the risk of even a small demonstration is best avoided. I should not want the Prime Minister's first visit to a regional Civil Service office to be the subject of adverse media publicity. I am therefore inclined not to pursue the question of a visit in South Wales but to look for an opportunity in another part of the country where we could expect to get away without any demonstration at all. For example, if the Prime Minister had been able to visit Telford in June, I think that the risk of a demonstration there would have been very small indeed: I know that she cannot do that but we may well be able to find an alternative on one of her tours later this year or next year.
4. Do you agree that we should not press the idea of a visit to a Government Department in South Wales?

4 April 1989

R.R.B.

ROBIN BUTLER

FRBAZY

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PRM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>2808</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: <i>Curtis to PS/Sir Brian Hayes dated 17 March 1989</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	<i>1/11/2006</i> <i>G. Gray</i>
MISSING AT TRANSFER	
NUMBER NOT USED	
MISSING (TNA USE ONLY)	
DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY)	

Instructions for completion of Dummy Card

Use black or blue pen to complete form.

Use the card for one piece or for each extract removed from a different place within a piece.

Enter the department and series,
eg. HO 405, J 82.

Enter the piece and item references, .
eg. 28, 1079, 84/1, 107/3

Enter extract details if it is an extract rather than a whole piece.

This should be an indication of what the extract is,
eg. Folio 28, Indictment 840079, E107, Letter dated 22/11/1995.
Do not enter details of why the extract is sensitive.

If closed under the FOI Act, enter the FOI exemption numbers applying to the closure, eg. 27(1), 40(2).

Sign and date next to the reason why the record is not available to the public ie. Closed under FOI exemption; Retained under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958; Temporarily retained; Missing at transfer or Number not used.

CONFIDENTIAL



FILE
KKIAMH

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

14 March 1989

SIR ROBIN BUTLER

VISITS TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

At your meeting today with the Prime Minister you asked her whether she wished to undertake a further series of visits to Government Departments. In particular, you urged her to visit some Government out-stations. These might include Next Steps agencies or candidates. Possibilities mentioned were DVLC in Swansea and the Inland Revenue computer centre at Telford.

The Prime Minister said she was ready to do this as part of her regional tours but she would not be able to include such a visit in the June tour of the Midlands which was being devoted to the Euro Election campaign.

You also suggested that she might visit some departmental headquarters. The Prime Minister agreed to this but the only candidate which was mentioned was Customs and Excise.

The most promising candidate for an outstation is DVLC if the regional tour scheduled for 29 September goes to South Wales. I will liaise with those here who are organising it. For headquarters visits could you let me have your suggestions of the priorities.

ANDREW TURNBULL
14 March 1989

6

CONFIDENTIAL



Like DO

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBIN BUTLER

VISITS TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

We discussed whether the Prime Minister should undertake a new round of visits to Departments and, if so, whether she should visit HQs round Whitehall or the outstations. We agreed that a visit to an agency or potential agency outside London as part of a regional tour would give the right signals in the Next Steps initiative.

I have looked at the programme of regional tours and the position is as follows:

- 10 March : North East England, programme already arranged.
- 12/13 May : Scotland, Scottish Conference, opening Torness.
- 31 May : Lancashire, opening Heysham.
- 7 June : Midlands, mainly political, leading to Euro-election Rally.
- 7/10 September : Scotland, including Balmoral.
- 29 September : Wales.
- 17 November : Nottingham and Derby.
- 15 December : Avon, North Somerset.

On 7 June the Prime Minister will actually be in Shropshire and hence very close to the Inland Revenue Computer Centre at Telford. But as the day has a largely political purpose it is unlikely that she would be able to spare time for a visit.

The most promising candidate is the tour of Wales on 29 September. If this is to South Wales it might be possible to include a visit to DVLC, the Patent Office or Companies House.

My conclusion is that we might squeeze in a visit to one outstation but this could be only part of a programme of Departmental visits.

AT

(ANDREW TURNBULL)
21 February 1989

CONFIDENTIAL

L

Alie

ECH

PRIME MINISTER

I understand that some time ago it was suggested that you might go over to the Department of the Environment and have a drink with senior officials there. Nicholas Ridley has apparently raised this again and before I go back and fix anything with his office could you confirm that you would like to do this.

TESSA GAISMAN

9 March 1988



10 DOWNING STREET

Tessa,

I now remember
only I woke up
in the middle of
the night.

Have for ^{checked} ~~figure~~
with PA + forced
a time for her to
go over to see JTE
appeals.

9/3. A C U

dti

the department for Enterprise

AB
PC deal
NW

Robert Atkins MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Industry

**Department of
Trade and Industry**

1-19 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

Switchboard
01-215 7877

Telex 8811074/5 DTHQ G
Fax 01-222 2629

CF

psc return ✓ given to dti

Direct line 215 5186
Our ref
Your ref
Date

28th January 1988

CF

Dear Private Secretary

REGIONAL BRIEFING PACK

As you may be aware, I am reviewing the Interdepartmental Regional Briefing Pack. In order to determine market needs, I would be grateful if you would complete the attached questionnaire and return it to this office by 1 February.

For information, a copy of the West Midlands Regional Brief is enclosed. The Briefs are published monthly and are divided into 9 regions - North West, North East, Yorkshire and Humberside, West Midlands, East Midlands, South West, South East, Eastern and London.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

yours sincerely

Melanie Williamson

MELANIE WILLIAMSON
ASSISTANT PRIVATE SECRETARY





the department for Enterprise

- 1 Do you receive the Brief already?
If so, which one? *Yes*
as required
- 2 Do you want copies of other Regions?
If so, which one(s)?
/
- 3 How often do you receive the Brief?
as required for visits
- 4 How often would you like to receive the Brief?
/
- 5 Do you use the Brief?
Yes
- 6 In what context?
briefing
- 7 Is the Brief user friendly? '
not particularly
- 8 Do you contribute to the Brief?
If so, what?
no
- 9 Would you like to contribute to the brief?
If so, what?
no



the department for Enterprise

- 10 What do you think of the Brief's
 - i length?
 - ii content?
 - iii layout?
- 11 How can we improve the Brief?
- 12 Can you foresee other uses for the Brief?
(Use by MP's?)
- 13 Any other comments.

PAB
2/1

THANK YOU

CC7ADK

Department of Trade and Industry
REGIONAL DATABASE

West Midlands

Section 1 Overview

- (a) Bull Points
- (b) Major Recent Issues

Section 2 Regional Profile

Section 3 Departments' Activities

- (a) Positive Points
- (b) Defensive Material

Section 4 Local Information

- (a) Good News
 - Orders*
 - Investment*
 - Jobs*
- (b) Bad News

Section 5 Statistics

Section 6 Explanatory Notes

Date: 25. 1. 88.

GOVERNMENT'S RECORD IN THE REGIONA. BULL POINTS

ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE Launched January 1988. Major expansion of services to support consultancy in key management areas for smaller companies. Spending over £200 million nationally over next 3 years. 50% grant towards costs of consultancy. (In Assisted Areas and Urban Programme Areas will fund 2/3 of the cost.) Also substantial promotion of other DTI services and support, especially for exports, innovation and regional measures.

REVIVAL IN ECONOMY: Recent West Midlands surveys have indicated a continuing revival of the region's economy. 35% of West Midlands employers surveyed have increased workforce since October 1987.

INNOVATION DTI spending on innovation will grow over the next few years all aspects of technology transfer. In addition innovation in small companies will be encouraged by an expansion of SMART.

URBAN REGENERATION: First ever Regeneration Grant awarded (for development of former Round Oak Steelworks, Dudley £3.25m). Birmingham City Action Team deploys £1m budget on schemes.

MAJOR RECENT ISSUES

STRATEGIC PLANNING GUIDANCE: On the 11 November 1987, Draft Strategic Planning Guidance for the West Midlands County was published for consultation on behalf of the SoS of the Environment: this is the first Metropolitan County for which draft Guidance has been issued. Final Guidance, which will provide a basis for Unitary Development Plans, will be prepared and issued early in 1988. The draft Guidance covers housing, industrial development, urban regeneration, green belt, shopping and transport. It has attracted a fair amount of media coverage, with a particular accent on shopping because of a series of major inquiries on shopping proposals programmed for the next few months. We understand informally that the draft Guidance has been well received, but formal comments from consultees are awaited.

THE EAST BIRMINGHAM URBAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY: Took formal shape and name (Birmingham Heartlands Limited) at its first Board meeting on the 16 November chaired by Sir Reginald Eyre. The consultants' study on East Birmingham is nearing completion and an executive summary has been presented to Ministers. The part-time Finance Director has been appointed and negotiations opened with the West Midlands Residuary Body on their land holdings in the area and with DOE on the terms and conditions of Urban Registration Grant.

INTEGRATED ACTION PROGRAMME: An IAP for Birmingham is currently under consideration by the European Commission. The 5 year programme brings together the European funding packages of the Regional Development Fund, the Social Fund, and loans from the Investment Bank. It is co-ordinated programme put forward by Government Departments the local authority, and statutory undertakers. The infrastructure element of the programme is being treated separately, as a National Programme of Community Interest. This element, totalling £290m, and seeking grant of £113m, was submitted to the Commission in September.

SECTION 2

A.REGIONAL PROFILE

WEST MIDLANDS REGION: Comprises the five administrative counties of Hereford and Worcester, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and the (former) West Midlands Metropolitan County. Until the mid-1970s the region was second only to the South East on most measures of economic prosperity; now has unemployment substantially above GB average, with largest proportion (nearly 51%) of long term unemployed, low average earnings and lowest GDP per head of any English region.

POPULATION - 5.1 million (about 9.5% of GB) declining particularly in the Metropolitan area because of migration. Employee population 2.2 million, 70% of which is contained in West Midlands (WM) Assisted Area.

INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE: Despite the loss of almost 30% of its workforce between 1979 and 1985 the vehicles, engineering and metals sectors still constitute the major WM industries. 38% of WM employees are in manufacturing industry, a higher proportion than any other GB region. The region has a high concentration of pottery and ceramics industry around Stoke-on-Trent. The Kidderminster area has nearly 25% of its workforce engaged in carpet manufacture. Service employment is mainly concentrated in the education/local authority sectors and in distribution, hotels and catering. The remainder of the region is of rural character.

NEW INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES: Electronics, communications, tourism and (to a lesser extent) clothing.

STATUS: 7 WM Travel to Work Areas (TTWA's) - Birmingham, Coventry/Hinckley, Dudley/Sandwell, Kidderminster, Telford/Bridgenorth, Walsall and Wolverhampton became Intermediate Assisted Areas in November 1984. (This was the first time-apart from a small area on the Welsh Border - that any part of the region received AA status). There are 2 Enterprise Zones - Dudley and Telford. An Inner City Partnership and a City Action Team is based in Birmingham. Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton and Wrekin receive Urban Programme funding. An extension to the Black Country Urban Development Corporation to cover parts of Wolverhampton was proposed in December 1987.

TASK FORCES: are based in Handsworth, Foleshill/Hillfields (Coventry) and Wolverhampton.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Largest concentrated industrial infrastructure in UK; severe problems of industrial dereliction particularly in the Black Country; excellent major road, rail and air communications.

CRIME PREVENTION & DRUGS

3,400 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are at work. Coventry Chamber of Commerce and the Home Office have established a project to develop local strategies for preventing alcohol-related crime. No 4 Regional Crime Squad has drug wings based at Bourneville and Telford. Amphetamines and cannabis are the main drugs of misuse; heroin problems exist in the major towns and cocaine is available in Birmingham.

POLITICAL COMPLEXION:

Members of Parliament; 36 Conservative 22 Labour

Local Authorities:	Conservative	Labour	No Overall Control
Metroplitan District Councils	2	4	1
County Councils	1	1	2

EDUCATION

FALLING SECONDARY SCHOOL ROLLS: All areas have been affected by falling secondary school rolls. There has been an increase in the primary school population in some areas, particularly urban areas with comparatively high ethnic minority populations. The first City Technology College (CTC) in the UK will be in Solihull; there are no plans for any others at present. Most local authorities have been hostile and local industry appears apathetic.

UNIVERSITIES: The region has four; Aston, Birmingham, Keele and Warwick.

NHS

The West Midlands is the third most deprived of the 13 Regional Health Authorities (RHA) when measured against its national Resource Allocation Working Party (RAWP) target. (It is now 2% below its RAWP target.) West Midlands is also the biggest of the 14 RHA's consisting of 22 districts which stretch from Stoke-on-Trent to Hereford and include the Birmingham conurbation. The thrust of regional policy is to make each district as far as possible self sufficient in terms of its acute hospital services and services for the priority groups, principally the mentally handicapped, the mentally ill and the elderly. Birmingham will remain the main centre for a number of specialist services but Coventry and Wolverhampton are also important regional centres.

SECTION 3

A. POSITIVE POINTS TO MAKE

EMPLOYMENT

ENTERPRISE ALLOWANCE SCHEME: Over 8,600 new businesses have been set up under the Enterprise Allowance Scheme in the region in 1986/87. Expansion of scheme announced through to 1988.

REGIONAL PROJECTS: Under the Training Access Point pilot projects, 3 regional projects were launched in April - in Dudley, Coventry and Birmingham. In Coventry over 4,000 people have used the system.

TOURIST RELATED EMPLOYMENT: In the W. Midlands which now supports 70,000 jobs has expanded three fold since the NEC opened in 1976. Tourism contributes around £520m to the regions economy.

EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS IN THE INNER CITIES: A Government and MSC funded programme to improve the employment prospects of young people in the inner cities by encouraging closer links with industry, is being expanded by the Industrial Society. The scheme will operate in the Handsworth Task Force Area of Birmingham.

TASK FORCE SUCCESS: Handsworth Task Force has created up to 1,300 permanent and temporary jobs and helped 32 small businesses to start.

3.6M GOVERNMENT GRANT TO DUDLEY: Under the Urban Regeneration Scheme will create 1,600 new jobs.

SMALL INDUSTRIAL UNITS IN COVENTRY: Are being built with £0.5m Urban Programme funding. 70 new jobs will be created.

ENVIRONMENT:

URBAN REGENERATION GRANT: First grant (of £3.25m) awarded to lever £14.25m.

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND: Since 1984, 131 projects in 19 districts have received £72.4m in grant.

DERELICT LAND GRANT: Since 1983 over £11m of the grant has been directed towards investigating and treating underground limestone caverns in the Black Country.

ESTATE ACTION: In 1987/88 14 new and continuation schemes costing over £9m so far approved to refurbish run-down council estates.

PSA:

REORGANISATION: The work of the former Area Offices at Nottingham, Shewsbury and Birmingham was transferred to Birmingham on 30 September under the control of Group Manager West Midlands and Group Manager East Midlands. The change will yield considerable managerial and cost benefits.

MAJOR NEW WORKS: 64 projects valued at £140m are to be constructed in the Midlands and the majority of them will be designed by PSA's Regional Office, Birmingham or local consultants. £46m is spent on the upkeep of the existing government estate in the Midlands each year, mostly employing local contractors based in the vicinity.

TRADE & INDUSTRY

SUPPORT FOR INNOVATION: Over £145m has been paid in the West Midlands region on science and technology projects £4.7m in the current financial year.

INNER CITY TASK FORCE: Birmingham is covered by a City Action team with a budget of £1m, and the Handsworth area of the city is served by an Inner City Task Force, as are Wolverhampton and Coventry.

REGIONAL SELECTIVE ASSISTANCE: Over £82m of RSA has been approved since 1984. The associated investment is £736m and the number of jobs created/safeguarded in excess of 37,000.

TRANSPORT

AIRPORTS: New terminal complex built at Birmingham Airport under government approved special allocation for capital expenditure at local authority airports. This is in addition to government funding of £24m under previous obligations. Should stimulate growth and Freeport.

BUS DEREGULATION: Smooth transition to deregulated services. Some teething troubles. Services broadly maintained. Most counties making savings on bus subsidy eg. Staffordshire £1.7m, Hereford £0.25m, and Warwickshire £0.17m. Minibuses introduced in several towns including Telford, Shrewsbury, Worcester and Kidderminster.

MAFF

HILL LIVESTOCK COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE SCHEME: Support for less favoured areas paid under the scheme amounted to nearly £2.5m in 1986.

FARM AND COUNTRYSIDE INITIATIVE: Has resulted in 16 schemes involving 677 unemployed people.

FARM ANIMAL WELFARE LIAISON GROUPS: MAFF is setting up group to bring together representatives from local authorities, auctioneers, National Farmers' Union and RSPCA.

SHEEP ANNUAL PREMIUM SCHEME: The normal 30% advance payment to farmers in the less favoured areas under the scheme has been increased this year to 75%.

ENERGY

POTENTIAL SAVINGS: of £260m a year for industry and commerce.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY SURVEY GRANTS: of £643k paid.

DEMONSTRATION INDUSTRIAL COMBINED HEAT AND POWER SCHEME: achieves savings of nearly £250k a year.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS: incorporating energy efficiency in urban renewal programmes in hand in Birmingham area.

COMMUNITY INSULATION PROJECTS: 42 operating; 7 more planned.

MONITORING AND TARGETTING SECTORAL ORGANISATIONS: 3 in area - pottery and brick, aluminium, iron founding; 2 Research Associations - pottery and brick, chemicals and rubber.

MONERGY TALKS: (Which originated in W. Midlands area) have to date identified potential savings of £12.5m from a total energy bill examined of £133m.

BRITISH COAL WESTERN AREA: (includes Staffordshire, Shropshire and West Midlands) productivity averaged 3.36 tonnes per manshift in 1986/87, increase of 23% over 1985/86. Averaging 3.77 tonnes for 1987/88 to date. Capital investment in the fields was £69 million in 1985/86 compared to an average of £52 million for the previous 5 years.

BRITISH COAL ENTERPRISE LTD: helped to create some 2990 new alternative job opportunities in Western Area.

HAWKHURST MOOR SITE, WARWICKSHIRE: Selected as most suitable for new mine. Further work to be done, but planning permission will be sought during 1987/88.

POWER STATION ORDERS: Splendid opportunity for local power plant manufacturers who are already benefitting from orders placed for Sizewell B PWR with possibility of further work should it be decided to build a PWR at Hinkley Point and coal-fired stations at Fawley and West Burton.

EDUCATION & SCIENCE:

RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES: £185k has been allocated to Coventry Polytechnic and £75k to Wolverhampton Polytechnic as a result of their inclusion in the Government selective research and engineering and technology initiatives.

MOD:

ROYAL SIGNALS AND RADAR ESTABLISHMENT (RSRE), MALVERN: MoD has one R & D Establishment in this region. RSRE employs 2,000 people. Proposals to establish small Science Park in surplus facilities at RSRE Malvern. This has potential for creating jobs in the area. If approved, might be

implemented early 1989. RSRE has just begun joint research projects at Malvern, with industry, into specific electronics areas. Aim to make best use of scarce national resources of manpower and facilities and achieve cross-fertilisation of Government/Industry capabilities. Hence NERI - National Electronics Research Initiative.

B. DEFENSIVE MATERIAL

HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT :Accept unemployment too high. That is why region receives high level of government assistance. Will take time to attract new industries which are needed. Employment and training measures helping large numbers of unemployed in the region.

REDUNDANCIES All the facilities of the Department of Employment are available to help redundant workers find new jobs or retraining.

RECENT AND FORTHCOMING REDUNDANCIES

THORN EMI	STECHFORD	125	Over next 18 mths
GEC	COVENTRY	360	Not Known
ROVER GROUP	GAYDON/CANLEY	150	Not Known
WALKER ENGINEERING	TELFORD	100	Jan 1988
BABCOCK TRANSFOMER	BILSTON	90	Not Known
LUCAS AEROSPACE	BIRMINGHAM	200	July 1988
LUCAS ELECTRICAL	BIRMINGHAM	90	July 1988

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT ISSUES: According to the 1984 Census of Employment, the West Midlands have lost 302k manufacturing jobs since 1979. Local trade Union leaders and councillors have blamed the situation on government policies. Furthermore, the West Midlands Forum of Councils has predicted a further loss of 147,000 manufacturing jobs over the next 10 years. Some sectors in manufacturing have seen decline in recent years, particularly more traditional areas. Position now improving: manufacturing output risen, 30% since 1979, investment in manufacturing risen 30% since 1983, manufacturing profitability at highest since 1973.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: An independent report utilising confidential MSC information, alleges widespread racial discrimination on 93 YTS programmes in Birmingham/Solihull. The report draws somewhat inaccurate conclusions from the use of different sets of figures. However, the MSC acknowledges that serious problems do exist, and is determined that all youngsters have equal opportunities on YTS. Progress is expected on this issue by the autumn, at which point more long term and accurate information will be available.

ENVIRONMENT.

LOCAL AUTHORITY CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ON HOUSING: Housing Investment Programme (HIP) allocations have declined and will do so again in 1988/89. But Local Authorities spending has been maintained through use of receipts from asset sales. Additional help available through the Estate Action Initiative for special problems of run-down estates: additional allocations will also be made in 1988/89 to authorities facing particularly heavy defective housing obligations.

LOCAL HOUSING STOCKS: Current resources not keeping pace with rate of decay. In 1985, an estimated £2,259m was needed to repair local authority housing.

PLANNED OUT-OF-TOWN SHOPPING DEVELOPMENTS: are giving rise to local concern. Government is to issue a direction requiring local planning authorities to consult Department of the Environment before granting permission for retail developments over 250,000 sq ft. Proposals can then be called in if necessary. Each must be considered on its merits.

DERELICT LAND: despite all efforts total area of derelict land increasing (impact of recession, which did not bite here until 1980).

NITRATES IN DRINKING WATER: Chief Medical Officer advised current nitrate levels in water supplies are not a health risk. Government is concerned about rising nitrate levels - particularly in Staffordshire - and is considering the recommendations for their reduction contained in the Nitrate Co-ordination Group's report.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

WEST MIDLANDS VEHICLE INDUSTRY: The West Midland car industry is of great importance to the UK economy and the government naturally wishes to see a strong and profitable industry here. The strength of support has been demonstrated by government's funding of the Rover Group (then BL) with £1.4 billion between 1979 and early 1984. The Government approved the 1987 Rover Group Corporate Plan without amendment, giving the company all that it requested. However, the main thrust of policy is to allow industries to become more competitive by reducing the rate of inflation and abolishing unnecessary controls on enterprise.

ASSISTED AREAS MAP: No current plans to change Assisted Areas Map. Expenditure on regional assistance measures throughout the country will not be reduced. The level of spend in a particular region will depend on the number and quality of applications.

TRANSPORT

A5/A49 SHREWSBURY BYPASS: Held up by High Court challenge. Local concern at the continuing delay, but the matter is out of the Department's hands until the application is heard.

EDUCATION & SCIENCE:

REORGANISATION IN SCHOOLS: There are proposals for schools reorganisation in Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester, Northampton and Staffordshire. Proposals for Dudley were rejected, fresh proposals are unlikely before late 1988. These may be some small-scale reorganisation in Wolverhampton and Solihull but these are only at very formative stage, and thus a matter for local authority discretion at present.

MOD

ROYAL ORDNANCE PLC: privatisation of factories at Redway Green, Featherstone, Summerfields: SoS announced in April 1987 that RO would be sold to British Aerospace for £190m. Possible redundancies: matter for commercial judgement of company.

LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT

Area sees low flying regularly. Conurbation of Birmingham prohibited to low flying aircraft. Particular area to note is Leamington Spa Fair Weather corridor - runs east to west across Leamington Spa and Stratford. In good weather, aircraft may fly down to 250 feet, but if visibility is not good, aircraft must fly much higher. Appreciate that low flying aircraft can disturb tranquility of these areas, but to exempt them would erode limited airspace available for minimum training needs and inevitably transfer flying to more densely populated areas.

SECTION 4: LOCAL INFORMATION

A. GOOD NEWS:

REGION'S ECONOMY Three recent West Midlands surveys have indicated a revival of the region's economy. Over one in four West Midlands employers forecast an increase in their workforce over the next 12 months.

EAST BIRMINGHAM URBAN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION Birmingham Heartlands a major new company which aims to regenerate the East Birmingham inner-city area, attract investment and create 3,000 jobs has been set up by the East Birmingham Urban Development Association. The company is a consortium of five major contracting/development companies, Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE The £106m centre is now under construction with ERDF funding. 3,000 jobs should be created on completion in 1989. Currently 600 site workers of whom 30% come from the inner city are employed.

NATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE £35m expansion will create up to 400 jobs on completion in early 1989.

HIGH TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS PARK The £100m park is to be developed adjacent to the national Exhibition Centre. 7,000 jobs to be created over the next decade.

113m EEC GRANT TO BIRMINGHAM TO AID ECONOMIC REGENERATION
20,000 new jobs by 1991.

Will create

NEW INVESTMENTS

- £350m RETAIL AND LEISURE COMPLEX
To be built at Wednesbury, creating 7,000 jobs.
- £300m PEUGEOT TALBOT, COVENTRY
To create 500-800 new jobs in early 1988.
- £100m PLEASURE PARK
Creating up to 10,000 jobs. To be built by 1990 on Dudley Enterprise Zone.
- £50m WEST ORCHARD SHOPPING CENTRE, COVENTRY
Should be completed by 1990.
- £45m POTTERIES SHOPPING CENTRE, HANLEY, STOKKE-ON-TRENT
1,000+ jobs on completion in mid 1988.
- £35m EXPANSION OF NATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE
400+ jobs on completion in early 1989.
- £35m BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
Expansion to existing facilities.
- £25m OCTAGAN SHOPPING CENTRE, BURTON ON TRENT
On completion in 1989n will create 500 new jobs.
- £6m KIYOKUNI INDUSTRY OF JAPAN
New Telford factory creating 150 jobs by 1991.
- £6m HOSKYNS TECHNOLOGY PARK
300 new jobs by 1992, in Birmingham.
- £6m BRUCKER SPECTROSPIN
Swiss company opening a factory in Coventry, 200 new jobs in 1988.
- £2.6m STOTHERT AND PITT
Announced major investment at their Bath plant, planning to invest within the next 3 years.

NEW ORDERS

- £78m AUSTIN ROVER
To supply car rental firms Avis and Swan National.
- £31m DEREK CROUCH, CONTRACTORS
Gained order from British Coal's Opencast Executive in North Staffordshire.

£28m NEI THOMPSON, WOLVERHAMPTON
Contract awarded to design and develop a rapid-assembly bridge system for MOD.

£11.2m FREIGHT ROVER
Sherpa vans for the Littlewoods Organisation.

£8m KALMAR CLIMAX, COVENTRY
Forklift trucks for the Belgian army.

NEW JOBS

RICHARDSONS DEVELOPMENTS, OLDBURY £100m Merry Hill Pleasure Park being developed in Dudley Enterprise Zone - 10,000 new jobs.

NATIONAL GARDEN CENTRE Plans to convert site at Stoke-on-Trent into a £100m Leisure Complex creating 2,400 jobs.

JOHANN BORGERS 500 jobs to be created in Telford who are opening a factory around March 1988.

FOSTER BROTHERS Up to 500 jobs are to be created by Easter 1989 at a new distribution centre in Solihull.

NIPPON SEIKI (JAPAN) To set up factory in Redditch, producing dashboard instruments for Austin Rover. 120 new jobs.

FREIGHT ROVER
Is doubling production. 1,000 jobs will be created.

BRITISH COAL
An extra 200 jobs at the Daw Mill Colliery in Warwickshire in 1988.

OMRON ELECTRONICS UK
Japanese company opening a £2m factory in Telford will employ 100 people by 1992.

SECTION 5

STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT

UNEMPLOYMENT:

	NOVEMBER 87	NOVEMBER 86	AVERAGE 79
NUMBER UNEMPLOYED	271,500	331,100	105,900
PERCENTAGE RATE (male)	10.5 (12.1)	12.8 (14.7)	4.2 (4.8)
UK RATE	9.5 (11.3)	11.3 (13.2)	4.3 (5.0)

NOTIFIED VACANCIES:

NOVEMBER 87	% CHANGE ON 86
125,018	+7%

EMPLOYMENT MEASURES

DECEMBER 87	% CHANGE ON 86
-------------	----------------

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME	25,785	-5%
ENTERPRISE ALLOWANCE SCHEME	9,534	+28%

JOBCLUBS

	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL
NO. OF JOBCLUBS	60	80
THROUGHPUT SINCE APRIL 1987	4,321	3,896
FOUND JOBS, COMMUNITY PROGRAMME OR TRAINING	2,796	2,246

RESTART

INTERVIEWS TO DATE	192,417
RESTART COURSES	4,187
JOBSTART ALLOWANCE	1,286

TRAINING

YTS TRAINING	51,856
--------------	--------

ADULT TRAINING START	PLAN 1987-88	% CHANGE ON 1986-87
	36,854	+43%

ENVIRONMENT

(1)	87-88	86-87	85-86	80-81	79-80
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£
RATE SUPPORT GRANT	1080	1003	1004		
HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME	131.17	147.5	163.9	217.0	248.0
DERELICT LAND GRANT	16.0	14.3	13.53	5.1	4.5
URBAN PROGRAMME	45.68	39.24	42.74	22.72	13.97

(1) RSG in '87/88 if authorities spend at Settlement assumptions.

DHSS:

PATIENTS TREATED:

	IN-PATIENTS	OUT-PATIENTS	DAY CASES
1986	673,000	3,841,000	93,000
% above '78	24%	17%	79%

MANPOWER

	DIRECT CARE STAFF (eg. Doctors, Nurses)	GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS
1985	54,130	2,597
% above '78	14%	15.4%

FINANCE

REVENUE	£m	% CHANGE OVER 78/79 (Real Terms)
86/87 GROSS EXPENDITURE	1049.7	24.7
87/88 INITIAL NET ALLOCATION	1114.4	30.0 (estimated)

CAPITAL

(including Joint Finance)

	87/88	86/87*	85/86	78/79
GROSS EXPENDITURE £m	N/A	N/A	118.2	27.8
INITIAL NET ALLOCATION £m	88.8	115.3	-	-

- NOTES: (1) Real Terms = over and above general inflation as measured by the GDP deflator.
(2) Net allocation figures which fluctuate throughout the year are not directly comparable with gross expenditure.
(*) Figures for 1986/87 are provisional.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

	COMPLETED SINCE 78/79	UNDER CONSTRUCTION	APPROVED
NO.OF SCHEMES (£m)	19 (73.4)	16 (86.5)	31 (229.7)

[NB:with fees and equipment costs totals increase by 30-40%]

TRADE & INDUSTRY

M Assisted Area designated in Nov 1984

Total RSA approved to date	£90.46m
Associated investment:	£814.86m
Jobs created/safeguarded:	42,396

This includes:

	87/88	86/87	85/86	84/85
	-----	-----	-----	-----
fm assistance approved	20.19	28.42	27.12	4.83
Jobs created/safeguarded	8,942	12,096.5	17,173	1,520

(figures for 85/86 and 84/85 include allocations for projects which were subsequently abandoned, so totals do not match cumulative figure which is net of these.)

TRANSPORT:

NEW CONSTRUCTION

	85/86	84/85	80/81	79/80
	-----	-----	-----	-----
No. of schemes completed(mls)	6(28.6)	4(17.2)	1(5.5)	1(5.0)
Value (fm)	88.3	74.3	5.7	4.4

MAINTENANCE

Value (fm)	28.4	25.0	19.0	17.7
------------	------	------	------	------

TRANSPORT SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT

Expenditure accepted (fm)	34.4	33.9	89.4	87.7
Settlements: Value(fm)	17.2	16.9	22.8	23.9

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY RECEIPTS £m

		1985	1984	1981
		-----	-----	-----
ERDF	INFRASTRUCTURE	44.73	18.06	-
	INDUSTRY	1.51	-	-
	TOTAL	46.24	18.06	-
	SOCIAL FUND	?	?	?
	AGRICULTURAL GUIDANCE FUND	-	-	-
	TOTAL STRUCTURAL FUNDS	?	?	?
	ECSC LOANS No/'000fm	-	-	-
	EIB LOANS No/£m	1/.175	-	-
	QUOTA COMMITMENTS	1986 51.51	78.5	30

EDUCATION & SCIENCE

	84/85	80/81	79/80
	-----	-----	-----
PUPIL/TEACHER RATIO:all schools (England)	17.8(17.5)	18.4(18.2)	18.5(18.4)
SCHOOL LEAVERS INTENDING TO GO FULL-TIME FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION (% England)	27.9(28.3)	27.5(27.0)	22.2(22.4)
NET RECURRENT AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED (£ per head of population Eng.) (DES figures include Cumbria)	248 (248)	200 (197)	164 (162)

MOD:

	1987	1986	1985	1981	1980
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
UK SERVICE PERSONNEL STATIONED IN REGIONAL (30 June, rounded)	8,500	9,400	9,400	9,700	9,700
UK CIVILIAN STAFF (1 April 87)					
Non-industrial	4,500				
Industrial	4,500				
		85/86	84/85	80/81	79/80
		-----	-----	-----	-----
DEFENCE PROCUREMENT EXPENDITURE IN REGION (approx figures £m)		300	300	200	100

HOME OFFICE

POLICE

	STRENGTH	ESTABLISHMENT	CIVILIANS
<u>STAFFORDSHIRE*</u>			
Figs at 30/06/87	2117	2156*	678
+/-since May 79	+137	+90	+101
[* 25 extra posts have been authorised during 1987]			
<u>WARWICKSHIRE*</u>			
Figs at 30/06/87	975*	981	303
+/-since May '79	+132	+105	+100
[* Includes 30 ethnic minority offices]			
<u>WEST MERCIA</u>			
Figs at 30/06/87	1934	1953	756
+/-since May '79	+182	+119	+255
<u>WEST MIDLANDS</u>			
Figs at 30/06/87	6693*	6684	1717
+/- since May '79	+662	+175	+291
[* Includes 135 ethnic minority officers]			

SECTION 11 GRANTS:

Grants amounting to £18.69m are being provided for projects to reduce the disadvantage faced by the ethnic minorities under Section 11 of the Local Government Act, 1966. The main recipients are Birmingham (£6.9m including staff for the Home Office sponsored Black Business in Birmingham Enterprise Agency), Coventry (£3.14m), Wolverhampton (£2.48m) Sandwell (£2.17m), Walsall (1.66m), Dudley (£0.9m) and Warwickshire (0.9m including five posts in an ethnic minority employment development team).

SECTION 6: EXPLANATORY NOTES

EMPLOYMENT

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES AND RATES: Seasonally adjusted (excluding school leavers) Unemployment rates: percentage of estimated working population (these are new rates which now include self employed and armed forces in the base)

NOTIFIED VACANCIES: Job opportunities notified by an employer to a Jobcentre. Nationally about one third of all vacancies are notified to the public employment service.

EMPLOYMENT MEASURES:

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME: work for long term unemployed people for up to a year on projects of benefit to local community.

ENTERPRISE ALLOWANCE SCHEME: weekly allowance for one year for unemployed people who set up their own businesses.

JOB RELEASE SCHEME: allowance for older workers who retire early, provided their employer agrees to replace them with unemployed person.

NEW WORKERS SCHEME: subsidy to employers who provide jobs for people under 21 at rates of pay which reflect their age and experience.

JOB-SPLITTING SCHEME: financial assistance to employers to encourage them to provide opportunities for the unemployed by splitting existing full-time jobs into 2 part-time jobs or creating new part-time opportunities.

COMMUNITY INDUSTRY: temporary work on community projects for unemployed 17-19 year olds with particular employment difficulties.

YOUNG WORKERS SCHEME: subsidy to encourage employers to take on more young people at realistic rates of pay. Scheme closed 31 March 1986

JOBCLUBS: coaching sessions for long term unemployed to restore self-confidence and improve job-hunting techniques.

RESTART PROGRAMME: in-depth counselling interviews for all long term unemployed people who are offered one of eight ways towards finding work, including a new Restart training course or a £20 a week Jobstart allowance for anyone taking a job paying less than £80 a week.

TRAINING MEASURES

YTS: training and work experience for up to 2 years for 16 - 17 year old school leavers

ADULT TRAINING PROVISION INCLUDES:

JOB TRAINING SCHEME: wide choice of training courses at Skillcentres and Colleges of Further Education etc.

TRAINING FOR ENTERPRISE: training for the new or existing business owner or manager.

ENVIRONMENT

The Urban Programme (UP) is a special allocation of resources to local authorities to support a range of projects aimed at economic regeneration, improving the environment and dealing with social problems in inner urban areas. Specific grants of 75% support projects submitted by the 57 most needy authorities.

The Housing Investment Programme (HIP) allocation represents the amount that local authorities are permitted to borrow to finance their capital expenditure on housing. They can also spend a prescribed proportion of their capital receipts.

Derelict Land Grant (DLG) is payable to local authorities or private bodies for up to 100% of the cost of reclamation of derelict land for the purpose of bringing it back into beneficial use or improving its appearance.

Rate Support Grant (RSG) is made up of two elements: block grant, which is the general non-specific grant payable to all authorities (although some do not actually receive grant), and domestic rate relief grant which is paid to all rating authorities to reduce domestic ratepayers' bills.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

DTI Financial Assistance is given in the form of consultancy grant under the Enterprise Initiative and investment grants under the Regional Selective Assistance.

TRANSPORT

Transport Supplementary Grant: From 1985/86, TSG payable on accepted capital expenditure on roads and traffic management, currently at grant rate of 50%. Previously paid on all transport expenditure accepted for grant, but only over a threshold at a grant rate of 70%.

ENERGY

The Energy Efficiency Demonstration Scheme provides financial support towards the installation and independent monitoring of selected projects demonstrating novel energy efficient techniques or the novel application of existing technologies.

The Energy Efficiency Survey Scheme provides grants for non-domestic consumers towards the cost of employing qualified independent consultants to carry out surveys and identify measures to improve energy efficiency.

Monitoring and Targetting support provides pump-priming finance to establish within host companies in each selected industrial sector a pilot energy management system which other companies in the sector can emulate (modified as necessary).

Monergy Breakfasts are breakfast-time meetings about energy management hosted by Ministers from the Department of Energy. A series of 20 Breakfasts is taking place throughout Great Britain. These Monergy Breakfasts are a more technical sequel to the original series of forty Breakfast Specials held from October 1983 to May 1985.

NHS

RAWP: The approach recommended by the Resource Allocation Working Party (RAWP) to determine the relative health care needs for each region, in order to arrive at a fair distribution of available resources. This involves a redistribution of resources in favour of historically deprived regions and those experiencing rapid population growth to bring them nearer their target figure.

EEC

ERDF aid for UK industrial projects is retained by Government

URBAN

CITY ACTION TEAMS: consist of representatives of DE, DTI and DOE and aim to co-ordinate Government help to Inner City partnership areas

INNER CITY TASK FORCES: small teams set up in 16 pilot areas in English inner cities which aim to ensure efficient targetting of existing government spending and to develop new approaches to job creation and enterprise.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH DOE SENIOR OFFICIALS

You asked whether it was really impossible for you to attend DOE Ministers' New Year party on Wednesday 13 January at 6.00 pm.

You have a bilateral with the Chancellor at 5.30 pm and Stephen and David's party at 6.30 pm.

So I will explore the possibility of your going at another time, perhaps as part of your programme of departmental visits (on which Robin Butler will talk to you early in the New Year).

N.L.W.

(N.L. WICKS)

29 December 1987

DCAAFD

DSG

SUBJECT
CC MASTER

file



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

The Prime Minister had a brief discussion with you this morning about the programme of visits which she intends to pay to Departments.

You reported that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office had asked to be an early candidate for a visit. The Prime Minister said that she would rather leave this possibility for the time being. She agreed with you that, besides visiting some headquarters Departments, she should visit, too, some "branch offices". You suggested that the Departments working in Market Towers might provide some useful candidates.

BA/1

You undertook to let the Prime Minister have some specific suggestions. Could I also suggest that your people should be in touch with the Diary Secretary here so that possible dates can be considered for the visits. This is particularly important in the case of those involving visits to establishments which are outside London.

N. L. W.

N. L. Wicks
24 July 1987

DSG

● PART 3 ends:-

TF to DGS 25.11.82

PART 4 begins:-

NLW to RTA. 24.7.87



IT8.7/2-1993

2009:02

Image
Access

IT-8 Target

Printed on Kodak Professional Paper

Charge: R090212