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PREM 19/3472

Confidential Filing

Availability of Hansard. Arrangements for the publication of written answers.

PARLIAMENT

March 1980

| Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date |
|---------------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|
| 14.4.80 | | | | | | | |
| 15.4.80 | | | | | | | |
| 10.6.80 | | | | | | | |
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| 30.10.90 | | | | | | | |
| 25.10.91 | | | | | | | |

PREM 19 / 3472



KW

bc: P.U.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 October 1991

Dear Malcolm

PROPOSED PRICE INCREASES FOR THE REPORTS OF
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

The Prime Minister has seen the Economic Secretary's minute and is content with the increases proposed in the price of Lords' and Commons' Hansards.

A copy of this letter goes to the Private Secretaries to other members of the E(A) Committee, to the Leaders of both Houses, and to both Chief Whips.

Yours sincerely
Dominic

DOMINIC MORRIS

Malcolm Buckler Esq
Economic Secretary's Office

DSG

UNCLASSIFIED*Prime Minister**Content with the
proposed increases for
Lords + Commons
Hansards?*FROM: ECONOMIC SECRETARY
DATE: 18 OCTOBER 1991

PRIME MINISTER

*Hansards?**Jma**Content***PROPOSED PRICE INCREASES FOR THE REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

Following a thorough review eight years ago, it was agreed that the subsidy for supporting sales of Hansard at well below cost should be gradually reduced. Accordingly, annual increases have seen the price of the Commons Daily Part raised from £1.00 to £6.00 whilst the Lords Daily Part has risen from £1.00 to £4.00.

As expected, there has been some sales resistance to the higher prices and print runs have fallen, thus increasing unit costs. Nevertheless, the loss in sales has been more than offset by the extra revenue raised and there have been relatively few direct complaints from customers about the increases.

The successive increases, coupled with various measures aimed at achieving economies in production costs, have enabled the level of subsidy to be reduced from £6.0m at the time of the review to £1.2m for the year April 1991 to March 1992. The target my predecessors set is the elimination of the revenue subsidy altogether over the course of this Parliament and this still seems just about achievable, albeit with a more substantial increase than we have applied in the last few years.

The Lords Hansard has, in fact, required no subsidy for the last two years, in part due to the successful introduction of new technology that enables reports of proceedings to be keyed onto discs which can be "machine read" by the HMSO presses. HMSO are actively pursuing, with the Editor of the Commons Hansard, similar arrangements for the Commons but these will not come on stream until next autumn. The subsidy is therefore currently supporting the Commons Hansard, which is normally twice the size of the Lords equivalent, and Standing Committee Debates, where very low print runs produce high unit costs.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Accordingly, and as I foreshadowed this time last year, I propose to raise the prices of the Commons Daily Hansard and of the Standing Committee Debates from £6.00 to £7.50, with the Lords Daily Hansard increasing from £4.00 to £4.20, more in keeping with inflation. The prices of the related Weekly Parts, Indexes, and Volumes would be adjusted by approximately similar percentages.

If you are content with these proposals I will announce the increases in the normal way by Parliamentary Written Answer. The new prices would take effect from the start of the 1991-92 Session.

I am copying this to other members of the E(A) Committee, to the Leaders of both Houses, and to both Chief Whips.

John Maples

JOHN MAPLES

UNCLASSIFIED



Flp
TW

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

30 October 1990

Sean Marshall

PROPOSED PRICE INCREASES FOR THE REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

The Prime Minister has seen the Economic Secretary's minute of 29 October. She is content that he should announce in a Written Answer that the price of the Commons Daily Part and of Standing Committee Debates will rise from £5 to £6, with the Lords Daily Part increasing from £3.60 to £4.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of E(A), to Tim Sutton (Lord President's Office), Gillian Kirton (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Greg Shepherd (Government Whips' Office, House of Commons), and Douglas Slater (Government Whips' Office, House of Lords).

Yours sincerely
Dominic

DOMINIC MORRIS

Malcolm Buckler, Esq.,
H.M. Treasury.

[Handwritten mark]

UNCLASSIFIED

*Prime Minister
Wanted that price of Commons
Hansard ~~to~~ be raised by 20% (£6)
and Lords by 11% (£4)?*



FROM: ECONOMIC SECRETARY
DATE: 29 OCTOBER 1990

PRIME MINISTER

Yes

PROPOSED PRICE INCREASES FOR THE REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Following a thorough review seven years ago, it was agreed that the subsidy for supporting sales of Hansard at well below cost should be gradually reduced. Accordingly, annual increases have seen the price of the Commons Daily Part raised from £1 to £5, while the Lords Daily Part price has risen from £1 to £3.60.

As expected, there has been some sales resistance to the higher prices and print runs have fallen, thus increasing unit costs. Nevertheless, the loss in sales has so far been more than offset by the extra revenue raised, and there have been relatively few direct complaints from customers about the increases.

The successive price increases, coupled with various measures aimed at achieving economies in production costs, have enabled the level of subsidy to be reduced from £6 million in 1983-84 to a projected level of £1.2 million for 1991-92. The target my predecessors set is the elimination of the subsidy altogether over the course of this Parliament, and this may still be achievable. Indeed, the Lords Hansard no longer requires any subsidy and with introduction of new technology at the House of Lords, and the transfer of printing to HMSO's Hansard Press, it was possible to hold the Lords' prices for the 1989-90 session at the previous year's levels.

There is, however, some way to go yet for the Commons Hansard, which is twice the size of the Lords equivalent, and the Standing Committee Debates, where very low print runs produce high unit costs. HMSO are actively pursuing, with the Editor of Hansard, moves to reduce the costs of producing the Commons Hansard. The objective is to get the Commons on to the same footing as the

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Lords where reports of proceedings are keyed on to a disc which can be "machine read" by the HMSO presses. This avoids the inefficiency of dual keying, and thus reduces costs.

Progress is being made in developing a similar system for the Commons, but the new arrangements are not expected to be fully on stream until 1993. I am not satisfied that this is being achieved as quickly as possible and I hope that we can do better. I am talking to the Controller, HMSO to see what can be done and will be writing to the Lord President to enlist his active support.

I propose, therefore, to raise the prices of the Commons Daily Part and of Standing Committee Debates from £5 to £6, with the Lords Daily Part only increasing from £3.60 to £4, more in keeping with inflation. The prices of the Weekly Parts, Indexes and Volumes would be adjusted accordingly. You should be aware that HMSO estimate that, in order to get close to eliminating the subsidy, a further increase in the Commons Daily Part - to £7.50 - will be necessary next year, with a further small increase in the year after that.

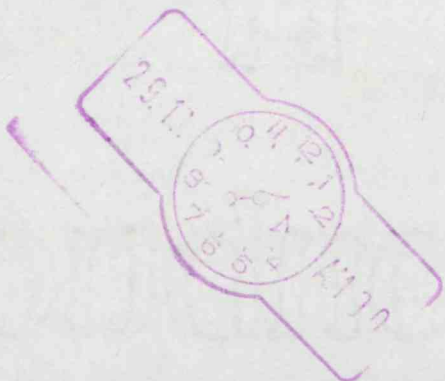
If you are content with these proposals I will announce the increases in the normal way by Parliamentary Written Answer.

I am copying this to other members of the E(A) Committee, to the Leaders of both Houses, and to both Chief Whips.

John Maples

JOHN MAPLES

UNCLASSIFIED





*From the Government Chief Whip
House of Lords*

1 November 1989



Dear Richard,

at hand

I have seen your note to the Prime Minister of 20 October.

I wish simply to write to express my appreciation that the prices of Lords Hansard are to be held at their current levels. It is good to know that the effort which is being made by the House in introducing new technology and to transferring operations to HMSO's Hansard Press are paying off. This was one of our objectives in encouraging the transfer to new technology.

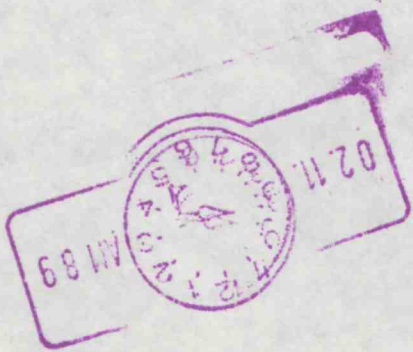
I am copying this to the Prime Minister, the other members of E(A) Committee, to the Leaders of both Houses and to the Chief Whip in the Commons.

*Yours ever,
Batie*

DENHAM

Richard Ryder Esq OBE MP
Economic Secretary to the Treasury

Parliament: Availability of
Mansad
March 80





Cole PM

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 October 1989

Dear Sheila

PROPOSED PRICE INCREASE FOR THE REPORTS
OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

The Prime Minister was grateful for the Economic Secretary's minute of 20 October. She is content for him to proceed as he proposes.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to other members of E(A) and to Steve Catling (Lord President's Office), Gillian Kirton (Lord Privy Seal's Office) Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely
Dominic

DOMINIC MORRIS

Miss Sheila James,
Economic Secretary's Office.



Prime Minister
Content that the
Commons daily + weekly
Hansard prices be increased
as Richard Hyde proposes?

Y
as not

FROM: ECONOMIC SECRETARY
DATE: 20 October 1989

JM
29x

PRIME MINISTER

PROPOSED PRICE INCREASES FOR THE REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Following a thorough review six years ago, it was agreed that the subsidy for supporting sales of Hansard at well below cost should be gradually reduced. Accordingly, annual increases have seen the price of the Commons Daily Part raised from £1.00 to £4.35 while the Lords Daily Part price has risen from £1.00 to £3.60.

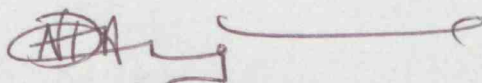
As expected, there has been some sales resistance to the higher prices and print runs have fallen, thus increasing unit costs. Nevertheless, the loss in sales has so far been more than offset by the extra revenue raised and there have been relatively few direct complaints from customers about the increases.

The successive price increases, coupled with various measures aimed at achieving economies in production costs, have enabled the level of subsidy to be reduced from £6.0 million in 1983-84 to a bid for £1.2 million for 1990-91. The target my predecessors set is the elimination of the subsidy altogether over the course of this Parliament and this should be achievable. Indeed, with the imminent introduction of new technology at the House of Lords and the transfer of printing to HMSO's Hansard Press, we are already at the point where the Lords Hansard no longer requires any subsidy.

I therefore propose to hold the prices of the Lords Daily and Weekly Parts, the Weekly Index, the Lords Bound Volume, and the Cumulative Index all at their current levels for the next Session. There is, however, some way to go yet for the Commons Hansard, although the Commons Fortnightly Index, Bound Volume and Volume Index also no longer require subsidy and can, I suggest, also be held at current levels. This means that the price rises for the next Session will be concentrated on those items which still require subsidy. I propose to raise the prices of the Commons Daily Part and of Standing Committee Debates from £4.35 to £5.00 (plus 14.9%), and to increase the price of the Commons Weekly part from £12.00 to £15.00 (plus 25%).

I should be grateful for the your views. If these proposals are agreed, I will announce the increases in the normal way by Written Answer.

I am copying this to other members of the E(A) Committee, to the Leaders of both Houses and to both Chief Whips



PP

RICHARD RYDER

(approved by the Minister
and signed in his absence)



CONQUETOR

MT2CUK



ceB G

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

29 September 1988

Dear Sheila,

PROPOSED PRICE INCREASES FOR THE REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

The Prime Minister was grateful for the Economic Secretary's minute of 12 September. She has also seen the further background material you kindly let me have in your letter of 26 September.

The Prime Minister is content with the Economic Secretary's proposals, and for an announcement of the increases to be made in the normal way by Written Answer.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the other members of E(A), Leaders of both Houses and to both Chief Whips.

Yours,
Paul

Paul Gray

Miss S. James
HM Treasury.

SD

PRIME MINISTER 1

PROPOSED PRICE INCREASES FOR REPORTS ON PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

When you saw the Economic Secretary's minute of 12 September (flag A) proposing price increases averaging 13 per cent, you asked for some extra information.

The further letter of 26 September from the Economic Secretary's office (flag B) addresses these points. It confirms that some 80 per cent of sales of Hansards are to other parts of the Parliamentary and Government machine. But it defends the proposal further to reduce the level of subsidy on the grounds of making the true costs transparent to customers.

Although I recognise there is a danger of fruitless changes to accounting arrangements, I do not think that is true in this case. It is an important element of the FMI that civil servants should have to face up to the true costs of the materials etc. they use. This must then point to transparent pricing arrangements for goods and services between different parts of the Government machine.

There is also the point that the decision to steadily remove the subsidy was taken in 1983, and it has been progressively implemented, with your agreement, each year since then.

Content now to agree to the proposed price increases, which are already agreed by the Business Managers?

Recd.

PAUL GRAY

*y
10 mb*

28 September 1988

PM3ABZ

B



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Paul Gray Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

26 September 1988

Dear Paul,

PROPOSED PRICE INCREASES FOR THE REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Diap.
I understand that the Prime Minister has asked for some further information, following on from the Economic Secretary's minute of 12 September.

2. The Prime Minister asked about the distribution of Hansard sales. In fact, Parliamentary and Government departments take up about 80% of all sales of Commons and Lords daily debates. Another 5% or so go to public libraries and other parts of the public sector. Most of the remainder go to companies, employers' associations, trade unions, charities, embassies etc. There are very few private subscribers, but some customers acquire individual copies through HMSO bookshops.

3. I also understand that the Prime Minister has questioned the reasoning behind the proposed Hansard price increases and whether in fact this is merely a measure to achieve purer accounting - by transferring the cost to Government Departments rather than maintaining it as an Exchequer subsidy (on the basis that the majority of copies sold go to the public sector). When Hansard pricing was jointly reviewed by the Treasury and HMSO in 1983 the conclusion was that the existing arrangements were unsatisfactory for two main reasons:

(i) the cost was not fully borne by the actual consumers, contrary to the Government's policy of identifying the full cost of services and, where possible, placing the cost of the services on those that obtain them,

(ii) the subsidy was provided from a cash-limited Vote accounted for by the Controller of HMSO, who nevertheless had no control over demand.

4. The Economic Secretary thinks that although most of the customers are in the public sector it is better that each user makes purchasing decisions in the light of a price reflecting true costs rather than a subsidised price.

5. The possible consequences of introducing a radical change were considered by Ministers. These would necessarily have meant swingeing increases in cover prices and it was decided any advantages that might arise from restructuring financial arrangements would have been negated by the political backlash. It was therefore decided to embark on the present policy of eroding the subsidy by gradual increases.

*Yours sincerely,
S M A James*

**S M A JAMES
PRIVATE SECRETARY**

PACUAMENT: Hansard, Mar 80





SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY
THAMES HOUSE SOUTH
MILLBANK LONDON SW1P 4QJ
01 211 6402

Adrian at this stage.

RLC

25/9

P R Gray Esq
Private Secretary to
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

22 September 1988

Dear Paul,

PROPOSED INCREASES FOR THE REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

The Secretary of State has seen the ^{with PG}minute of 12 September by the Economic Secretary about the proposed price increases. He accepts these should be implemented, but looks to HMSO to do all they can to reduce the costs of production.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to other members of E(A) and to both Chief Whips, and to the Private Secretary to the Economic Secretary.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Brand

STUART BRAND
Private Secretary



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 1077
 11819

SECRETARY OF STATE
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR THE USE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

1111

SECRET

SECRET



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

16 September 1988

mbm
PRCC
16/9

Dear Payd,

PROPOSED INCREASES FOR THE REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

The Lord President has seen the minute of 12 September from the Economic Secretary, and has indicated that he accepts that the proposed increases in price should be made. He would be grateful to be kept in touch with the timing of the Written Answer to announce the increases.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to other members of E(A) and to both Chief Whips, and to the Economic Secretary's Private Secretary.

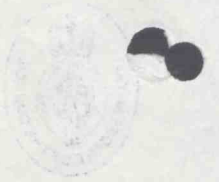
Yours,

Alison

ALISON SMITH
Private Secretary

P R Gray Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street

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LONDON



WILLIAMS BROTHERS LTD

16. IV

dti

the department for Enterprise

gc Pkt

The Rt. Hon. Lord Young of Graffham
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

NBPM

ARC6

16/9

Sheila James
Private Secretary to the
Economic Secretary to the Treasury
HM Treasury
Parliament Street
LONDON
SW1P 3AQ

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

Direct line 215 5422

Our ref DW4ANK

Your ref

Date 16 September 1988

Dear Sheila,

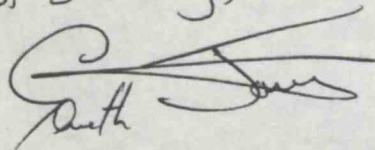
PROPOSED PRICE INCREASES FOR THE REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATES

in PM Lox

My Secretary of State has seen the Economic Secretary's letter to the Prime Minister about the proposed increases in price of the Official Report.

I am writing to let you know that he has no objection to this increase.

I am copying this letter to other Private Secretaries of members of E(A), leaders of both Houses and both Chief Whips.

Yours sincerely,


GARETH JONES
Private Secretary



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

*please slip
with other comments*

15 September 1988

Dear Peter,

MBM


PC 16.16.88

PROPOSED PRICE INCREASES FOR THE REPORTS OF
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES *at HOP*

Thank you for the copy of your letter of 12
September to the Prime Minister.

From a House of Lords point of view I accept
that the proposed course of action regarding
price increases for Hansard is necessary.

I am copying this letter to other members of
E(A) and to both Chief Whips.

Yours sincerely


BELSTEAD

Peter Lilley Esq, MP

PARLIAMENT: Availability
of Hansard
Mar 05



A

AD
Prime Minister
The Business Managers
have agreed to this.



FROM: ECONOMIC SECRETARY

DATE: 12 September 1988

Concluded with the proposed price increases.

PRIME MINISTER

REC 6

16/9

~~to take it~~
Who buys most? Surely it is the public sector? How much goes to the printer?

PROPOSED PRICE INCREASES FOR THE REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Following a thorough review five years ago, it was agreed that the subsidy for supporting sales of Hansard at well below cost should be gradually reduced. Accordingly, annual increases have seen the price of the Commons Daily Part raised from £1.00 to £3.70 while the Lords Daily Part price has risen from £1.00 to £3.25. Over the same period, the annual subsidy required has been reduced from £6.0m in 1983-84 to £2.3m for 1988-89.

we merely attempt the accounting by charging more?

As expected, there has been some sales resistance to the higher prices and print runs have fallen, thus increasing unit costs. Nevertheless, the loss in sales has so far been more than offset by the extra revenue raised and there have been relatively few direct complaints from customers about the increases.

I suggest our aim should be to eliminate the subsidy altogether over the course of this Parliament and I therefore propose to further increase prices by an average of 13% with effect from the start of the next Session. The largest increases (17.6%) would apply to the two categories requiring most subsidy, House of Commons Daily Parts and Standing Committee Debates. I propose to increase the price of these from £3.70 to £4.35. In the case of House of Lords Daily Parts, which are normally half the size of the Commons equivalent, I propose a smaller rise, from £3.25 to £3.60. The price of Weekly Parts would increase proportionately (with some adjustment in the case of Lords to reflect the fact that they now more frequently sit five days a week) while increases for Bound Volumes, which no longer need subsidisation, would be just under 5%.

These increases should raise an additional £0.5m in a full year



unless there is much more sales resistance than hitherto. Meanwhile HMSO will continue to do all they can to reduce the costs of production.

I would be grateful for your agreement to this course of action. I would propose to announce the increases in the normal way by Written Answer.

I am copying this to other members of E(A), to the Leaders of both Houses and to both Chief Whips.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Lilley".

PETER LILLEY

~~PA~~ PAAC: Hensard May 30



COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

2 November 1987

From the Private Secretary

Dear Sir

PROPOSED PRICE INCREASE FOR THE REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATES

The Prime Minister has seen the Paymaster General's minute of 26 October. She has agreed the price increases for Hansard he proposes in the minute.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to other members of E(A), Mike Eland (Lord President's Office), Steven Wood (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Murdo Maclean and Rhodri Walters (Chief Whip's Office).

LE
Mark Addison

Mark Addison

Simon Judge, Esq.,
Paymaster General's Office.



Prime Minister ①
The Business Managers are content.
Agree this price increase?

FROM: PAYMASTER GENERAL MA 30/10
DATE: 26 October 1987

PRIME MINISTER

PROPOSED PRICE INCREASE FOR THE REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Following a thorough review four years ago, it was agreed that the subsidy for supporting sales of Hansard at well below cost should be gradually eroded. Accordingly the price of the Daily Part was increased from £1.00 to £1.50 in October 1983, to £1.95 in November 1984, to £2.50 in November 1985, and to £2.95 last November. As expected, sales to Parliament have been little affected so far although sales to other customers are beginning to show the effects of some price resistance. However, there have been relatively few complaints about the increases.

These increases have reduced the subsidy from £6 million in 1983-84 to £3.1 million in 1987-88. Nevertheless, there is still some way to go before an acceptable balance is reached and I now propose that we take a further step by increasing the price of the Commons Daily Part from £2.95 to £3.70 from early November. Standing Committee Debates currently need the greatest degree of subsidy, as a consequence of the very low print-runs involved, and I also propose to raise their price to £3.70 (from £2.65). In the case of Lords Daily Parts, which are normally half the page content of the Commons equivalent, I propose a smaller rise, to £3.25. The prices of Weekly Parts would be increased proportionately but Bound Volumes, which no longer require subsidisation, will only be increased by around 5 per cent. These increases should raise an additional £0.8 million in a full year unless there is much more sales resistance than hitherto. HMSO will, meanwhile, continue to do all they can to reduce the costs of production and are taking a number of steps to this end.

I would be grateful for your views. If this proposal is agreed I will announce the price increase in the normal way by Written Answer.

I am copying this to other members of E(A), to the Leaders of both Houses and to both Chief Whips.

P.B.

PETER BROOKE

PARLIAMENT: Availability of
Hansard Mar 80



CONQUEROR

11



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

23 October 1986

The Prime Minister has seen Mr. Brooke's minute of 10 October about the proposed price increases for Hansard Reports. She is content that those price increases should go ahead and that they should be announced as proposed.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of E(A), Leaders of both Houses and both Chief Whips.

(Mark Addison)

Mike Norgrove, Esq.,
Office of the Minister of State,
HM Treasury

cr

CCPA



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

14 October 1986

DEA
Dear David,

CF - M check
of de orders to
MGM

The Lord Privy Seal has seen the minute to the Prime Minister from the Minister of State for the Treasury of 10 October, proposing an increase in the price of Hansard. He strongly agrees with the proposals.

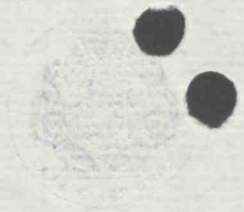
I am copying this to the private secretaries to other members of E(A), and to the private secretaries to the Lord President and both Chief Whips.

Yours,
Alison

ALISON SMITH
Private Secretary

David Norgrove Esq
10 Downing Street

PARUAMENT : Hausard, Mar 80



COMMISSION

1980

CF...
C.B.G.
W...



FROM: PETER BROOKE

DATE: 10 October 1986

PRIME MINISTER

Yes

Prime Minister. ①
The business managers are content.
Agree to increase in Hansard prices?
ME 23ms

PROPOSED PRICE INCREASE FOR THE REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Following a thorough review three years ago, it was agreed that the subsidy for supporting sales of Hansard at well below cost should be gradually eroded, preferably by increases in the selling price at the start of a new Session. Accordingly the price of the Daily Part was increased from £1.00 to £1.50 at the start of the 1983-84 Session, to £1.95 at the start of the 1984-85 Session, and to £2.50 at the start of the 1985-86 Session. As expected, sales to parliament and Departments (which together account for the bulk of the copies) have been little affected and HMSO's print quantities of the Daily Part are now only 6 per cent lower than three years ago, and have remained unchanged during the last year. Moreover, there have been few complaints about the increase.

These increases, coupled with savings in production costs, have reduced the subsidy from £5.2m in 1984-85 to £2.8m in 1986-87. Nevertheless, I consider there is still some way to go before an acceptable level is reached and I now propose that we increase the price of both Commons and Lords Daily Parts from £2.50 to £2.95 from the start of next Session. The prices of Weekly Parts, Indexes and Volumes would be increased proportionately. This increase should raise an additional £0.9m in a full year unless there is much more sales resistance than in the past.

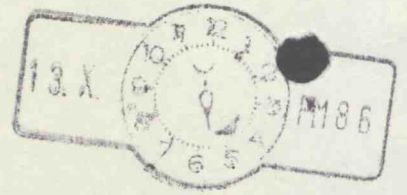
I would be grateful for your views. If this increase is agreed I will announce the price increase in the normal way by Written Answer in the week of 21 October.

I am copying this to other members of E(EA), to the Leaders of both Houses and to both Chief Whips.

P.B.

PETER BROOKE

PARLIAMENT: Availability of Hansard: Mar 1980



COMMISSIONER

13



JK

C. PG DTI
DOE LPO
WO CWO, H/C
SO CWO, H/L
D/EN LPSO
NIO
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CDL

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 October 1985

The Prime Minister has now seen Mr. Gow's minute of 17 October about the proposed price increases for reports of Parliamentary Debates. She is content that these price increases should go ahead and that they should be announced as proposed.

I am copying this letter to Private Secretaries to Members of E(A), Leaders of both Houses and both Chief Whips.

(MARK ADDISON)

Mike Norgrove, Esq.,
HM Treasury.

EAL



*Re Minister: 1
The business managers
are content. Agree
increase in Hansard
prices?*

FROM: Minister of State

DATE: 17 October 1985

Yes not

OK

24/10

PRIME MINISTER

PROPOSED PRICE INCREASE FOR THE REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Following a thorough review two years ago, it was agreed that the subsidy for supporting sales of Hansard at well below cost should be gradually eroded, preferably by increases in the selling price at the start of a new Session. Accordingly the price of the Daily Part was increased from £1.00 to £1.50 at the start of the 1983-84 Session, and from £1.50 to £1.95 at the start of the 1984-85 Session. As expected, sales to Parliament and Departments (which together account for the bulk of the copies) have been little affected so far and HMSO's print quantities are now only 6 per cent lower than two years ago. Moreover, there have been few complaints about the increase.

These increases, coupled with savings in production costs, have reduced the subsidy from £5.2 million in 1984-85 to £3.1 million in 1985-86. Nevertheless, there is still some way to go before a realistic balance is reached and I propose that we take a further step towards eroding this subsidy by increasing the price of both Commons and Lords Daily Parts from £1.95 to £2.50 from the start of the next Session. The prices of Weekly Parts, Indexes and Volumes would be increased proportionately. This increase should raise an additional £1.2 million in a full year unless there is much more sales resistance than hitherto.

I would be grateful for your views and if this increase is agreed I will announce the price increase in the normal way by Written Answer in the week beginning 21 October.

I am copying this to other members of E(EA), to the Leaders of both Houses and to both Chief Whips.

I.G.

IAN GOW

PARLIAMENT

HANSARD

MAR

PO



CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 October 1984

The Prime Minister has now seen Mr. Hayhoe's minute of 18 September about the proposed price increase for the reports of Parliamentary debates. She understands that the business managers are now content with these proposals and she has agreed to them.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of E(A), to Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office), David Morris (Lord Privy Seal's Office) and Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office).

(Timothy Flesher)

Mike Corcoran, Esq.,
HM Treasury

Lo

Prime Minister

This has now
been agreed by the
business managers.
Agree price increase?



1
Annual collection
copy of the...
...

FROM: Minister of State

DATE: 18 September 1984

PRIME MINISTER

Yes
24/10

PROPOSED PRICE INCREASE FOR THE REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

I consulted colleagues last year about the arrangements for pricing the Reports of Parliamentary Debates. A number of options were identified but we eventually decided that the political consequences of disproportionate price rises would be unacceptable. An increase in the price of the Daily Part from £1.00 to £1.50, which was introduced last October, was considered to be the maximum that the market would bear, and which would be acceptable to Parliament. This was justified in the event by the lack of public reaction to the increase.

Hansard is still heavily subsidised (£5.2m in 1984-85) in order to compensate HMSO for the loss incurred in printing copies to the very tight timetable that Parliament requires. HMSO now suggest that we should take a further step towards eroding this subsidy by increasing the price of both the Commons and Lords Daily Parts from £1.50 to £1.95 from the start of the next Session. The prices of Weekly Parts, Indexes and Volumes would be increased proportionally. This increase should raise an additional £650,000 in a full year, after allowing for some sales resistance.

I would be grateful for your views and if this increase is agreed I will announce the price increase by way of Written Answer in the week beginning 22 October.

I am copying this to other members of E(EA).

MW Morgan
(PRIVATE SECRETARY)

bt

BARNEY HAYHOE

(Approved by The Minister of State
and signed in his absence)

Lord Privy Seal's Office -
No objection.



u. LPC

10 DOWNING STREET

An. Whip.

Tim Flesher would be
grateful for your
comments on this
minute.

With the compliments of

Susan Chappell

Duty Clerk.

1. 10. 84



*Annual Colloquy
(copy of report to the
Joint Committee)*

FROM: Minister of State

DATE: 18 September 1984

PRIME MINISTER

PROPOSED PRICE INCREASE FOR THE REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

I consulted colleagues last year about the arrangements for pricing the Reports of Parliamentary Debates. A number of options were identified but we eventually decided that the political consequences of disproportionate price rises would be unacceptable. An increase in the price of the Daily Part from £1.00 to £1.50, which was introduced last October, was considered to be the maximum that the market would bear and which would be acceptable to Parliament. This was justified in the event by the lack of public reaction to the increase.

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I would be grateful for your views and if this increase is agreed I will announce the price increase by way of Written Answer in the week beginning 22 October.

I am copying this to other members of E(EA).

*M. M. Morgan
(PRIVATE SECRETARY)*

bb

BARNEY HAYHOE

*(Approved by the Minister of State
and signed in his absence)*



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR. CORCORAN

H.M. TREASURY

The Prime Minister has now seen your Minister's minute of 6 October about the price of Hansard and the subsidy to public libraries. Mrs. Thatcher has agreed that, as proposed by Mr. Hayhoe, the price of the Daily Part of Hansard should be increased to £1.50 and that the price of the Weekly Parts, Indexes and Volumes should be raised in proportion. Mrs. Thatcher has also agreed that HMSO should continue to offer copies of Government publications, including Hansard, at half the cover price to rate-maintained free libraries in the United Kingdom.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries to members of E(A), to Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office), David Beamish (Chief Whip's Office, House of Lords), and Jonathan Rees (Mr. Channon's Office).

Tim Flesher

7 October 1983

cc:

HMT

NIO

D/En

SO

WO

DoE

H2
D/Emp.

DTI

CDLO

D/Inns

MAFF

CSIO

CO

SH

Prime Minister:

Do you agree that Hansard should continue to be sold at well below cost price but with an increase to £1.50 a copy; and that government publications should continue to be sold to public libraries at half price?

PRIME MINISTER



FROM: Minister of State

DATE: 6th October 1983

✓ 6/10 ✓ 25 ms

PRICE OF HANSARD AND SUBSIDY TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

When the price of the Daily Official Report was increased from 80p to £1.00 in April 1982, it was agreed that the issue of the financing of Hansard in the longer term should be reviewed.

The nub of the problem is that Hansard is traditionally sold at a price well below the full costs of its production, with the difference - currently over 70 per cent of the whole - being paid from an HMSO cash-limited Vote. These arrangements are unsatisfactory for two main reasons. First, the cost of Hansard is not borne by the consumers and this does not conform with our general approach of identifying the full costs of services and, where possible, placing them on those who obtain them. Secondly, the subsidy is provided from a cash-limited Vote accounted for by the Controller of HMSO, who has however no control over the demand on it.

Officials from Treasury and HMSO have examined this problem in considerable depth and have identified a number of options that are procedurally more in accord with the general thrust of our policy. However, unfortunately they involve substantial increases in the cover price - ranging up to £8.00 or more for the Daily Part - without producing any significant savings in total public expenditure. This is because some 80 per cent of all copies are taken by Parliament and Government Departments and swingeing increases in prices would inevitably lead to some reassessment of need with a consequent fall in all categories of sale - except possibly in copies required by Parliament.

I have discussed the implications of this with Willie Whitelaw, John Biffen and Bertie Denham. We are agreed that the political consequences of trying to introduce substantial price rises would outweigh any advantages that might arise from restructuring the financial arrangements. We consider that the best course in the



circumstances is to increase the price of the Daily Part to £1.50 - the maximum that we think the market will bear and which would be acceptable to Parliament. The prices of Weekly Parts, Indexes and Volumes would be raised in proportion. In a full year this should reduce the subsidy from £6.2m to around £5.5m.

The new prices will, as is customary, be announced in both Houses by Written Answer and I would propose to do this on the first day of the new Session. Unless I hear from you to the contrary by 18 October, I shall take it that you are content.

You should know that we also discussed the arrangements under which HMSO offer copies of Government publications, including Hansard, at half the cover price to rate-maintained free libraries in the United Kingdom. Again we concluded that the potential savings in net public expenditure that might result from withdrawing or reducing this concession - which has been given since 1924 - were insufficient to outweigh the likely outcry from the strong library lobby who would be bound to attract significant Parliamentary support.

I am sending copies of this to members of E(A) and to Willie Whitelaw, Bertie Denham, John Wakeham, Paul Channon and Murdo Maclean.

BH.

BARNEY HAYHOE

Sam

March

80



[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]



Minister of State

✓ NJS has seen
Questions copy

Top Copy in Parliamentary
Parliament

Civil Service Department
Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ
Telephone 01-273 3000

10 June 1980

Dear Parliamentary Clerk

... I enclose a copy for information of a letter I have received from Ken Morgan (Editor, Hansard) about Written Answers.

The first point made by Ken Morgan concerns the 5.00pm 'deadline'. It is, of course, accepted that some delays are inevitable and are beyond our control. I am also sure that we all do our best to help the Editor and his staff in this respect. Perhaps I could remind you, however, that where a delay can be anticipated the Hansard staff would appreciate a 'phone call.

On the matter of the backlog of Written Answers given on the first day after a Recess, I do not think there is any easy solution. Most of us try to answer these Questions before the House rises for a Recess, often at great cost in departmental resources. Some of the blame must lie with Members who seem to try to rush in Questions just before they go on holiday. The problem is that answers cannot be given unless the House is sitting. If we have Questions for ordinary Written Answer (put down for some earlier date) ready early, then they can be sent in early on the first day back. To give the answers earlier (ie in the Recess) would, as I understand the position, constitute a breach of privilege. I shall take advice from my officials on this matter, though I hold no great hope of solving the problem. If anyone has any useful comment or solution to this I should be glad to hear it.

One last point. I am presently taking delivery of copies of the 'Supplement' for Departments as set out in my letter of 18 April. Only one Department has actually collected a copy and the rest go in the wp⁶. I have, therefore, concluded that the service is not required and intend to cancel it with effect from the end of this month. This will mean that if you wish to have a copy you will have to get your Minister's copy from the Vote Office. In doing this I must stress to you that a lot of extra work is created for Hansard when Departments fail to put in column references and headings when referring to earlier answers.

No doubt we will all continue to do our best to help the Editor (to whom I am copying this), both in meeting the 5.00pm deadline and in avoiding any build-up of a backlog - perhaps by sending in answers in batches when this can be done.

Yours Sincerely

John C. Hawkins

J C HAWKINS
Parliamentary Clerk



EDITOR
DEPARTMENT OF THE OFFICIAL REPORT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
01-219 3388

J.C. Hawkins Esq.,
Parliamentary Clerk,
Civil Service Department,
Whitehall,
London SW1A 2AZ

7th June, 1980

My dear John

The Supplement to the Official Report containing Written Answers to Questions not included in the current daily part has now been published regularly for the last two months. There was a meeting in my office today to discuss progress and it seems to be generally agreed that the supplement is a useful device and of assistance to Members, Clerks in the House and others. However, a number of points need to be stressed.

Departments are beginning to break the 5 p.m. deadline for delivery of their answers, a deadline which is essential if the supplement is to continue. The printers are again encountering staffing difficulties and these can be overcome only if written answers are delivered promptly.

On the day the House resumes after a recess there is inevitably a backlog of written answers and this is liable to have a domino effect of delay throughout the week. Hansard can help to obviate the delay if Departments are able on these days to send their answers over as soon as they are ready, even if this means sending them over in several batches.

K.S. Morgan
Editor



Minister of State

Seen AK to see VMI
Civil Service Department
Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ
Telephone 01-273 3000

18 April 1980

Dear Parliamentary Clerk

You will have seen KenMorgan's Letter of 14 April about the production of a Supplement to written answers. This note is to enlarge on one or two points.

It might help if I explain what happens to written answers now. There are in effect three categories of answers. First, those which are delivered to the Official Report early and that the printers are able to print, these appear in Hansard the next day. Second, answers which are also delivered in good time but that the printers are not able to print, these appear in the new Supplement and subsequently are printed in succeeding daily parts. Third, answers delivered late miss both the current daily part and the supplement but are, of course, published in succeeding daily parts.

The object of producing this Supplement is to assist the House and copies are made available, as the Editor says in his letter, for Members to collect from the Vote Office. If Departments require a copy of the supplement, (and I really cannot think why!), arrangements have now been made for a copy to be available for collection from the Civil Service Department. Callers should go to the reception desk at the main entrance to Old Admiralty Building and ask for a copy of the Hansard Supplement and state the Department for whom it is required. I am only able to supply one copy per department.

The Editor made a number of other points, all of which are very sensible and have been made repeatedly over the years. I am sure that we will all do our best to assist him and his staff in any way we can.

Yours Sincerely
John C. Hawkins

J C HAWKINS
Parliamentary Clerk

PS. Copies of the Supplement
will be available after noon
each day.

Jb
18/4

118 1026 111



12 APR 1980



EDITOR
DEPARTMENT OF THE OFFICIAL REPORT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
01-219 3388

Parliament
Seen by NIS
for
MS
15/4

14th April, 1980

As from Monday 14 April 1980, the Official Report will be issuing a daily supplement containing any Written Answers to Questions not included in the current Daily Part. The contents of each supplement will be incorporated in the following Daily Part.

In order to meet printing deadlines and other technical requirements, Written Answers intended for the supplement should be in the hands of the Official Report by 5 p.m. the day before publication - 12.30 p.m. on Fridays. Answers received after that time will usually be published only in the next following Daily Part - generally 48 hours later - together with Answers already contained in the supplement.

Hansard would be greatly assisted if Parliamentary Clerks were able to arrange for their Answers to arrive at the Hansard Office well before 5 p.m., preferably nearer 4 p.m.

In order to cope with publishing difficulties, please send tables 24 hours in advance.

It might be thought advisable to have departmental messengers required to obtain a timed receipt of Answers.

Hansard would be facilitated if "pursuant" answers were in Hansard house style and included the original heading.

Copies of the supplements should be available from the Vote Office from about 11 a.m.

Assistance with and co-operation about "inspired" or late "must go" answers will be assured by Hansard Assistant Editors provided they are telephoned - L.R. Johns, 5525, F.G. Brotherston, or P. Walker, 5257. However, it is generally unlikely that Answers received after 5 p.m. will be printed in the supplement. Ministers should be advised that this is a printing fact of life. In difficulty, please refer them to the Editor of Hansard - 3388.

The intention is to assist the House by the earlier publication of Written Answers. The situation will be reviewed when the Hansard Press is in operation, which is expected to be in the late summer of this year.

K.S. Morgan
Editor

Note for file

① CSD to do it

② 24/48 hr

③ look at Answer

CSD took this on

MS
14/4
AK
Comm.?



EDITOR
DEPARTMENT OF THE OFFICIAL REPORT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
01-219 3388

J.W. Stevens, Esq.,
Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the
Duchy of Lancaster,
Privy Council Office,
Whitehall,
London SW1A 2AT

25th March, 1980

My dear John

Following the meeting between Hansard and Parliamentary Clerks yesterday, I would propose to send the following minute to all Parliamentary Clerks.

As from Monday 14 April 1980, the Official Report will be issuing a daily supplement containing any Written Answers to Questions not included in the current Daily Part. The contents of each supplement will be incorporated in the following Daily Part.

In order to meet printing deadlines and other technical requirements, Written Answers intended for the supplement should be in the hands of the Official Report by 5 p.m. the day before publication - 12.30 p.m. on Fridays. Answers received after that time will usually be published only in the next following Daily Part - generally 48 hours later - together with Answers already contained in the supplement.

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The Leader of the House might think that it would be worth considering answering an inspired question with a Written Answer on the following lines.

As from Monday 14 April 1980, the Official Report will be issuing supplements containing any Written Answers to Questions not included in the current Daily Part. The contents of each supplement will be incorporated in the following Daily Part.

In order to meet printing deadlines and other technical requirements, Written Answers intended for the supplement ought to be in the hands of the Official Report by 5 p.m. the day before publication - 12.30 p.m. on Fridays. Answers received after that time will usually be published in the appropriate Daily Part - generally 48 hours later - together with Answers already contained in the supplement. In order to meet printing requirements, printing of answers containing tables may be delayed by 24 hours or more.

The intention is to assist the House by the earlier publication of Written Answers. The situation will be reviewed when the Hansard Press is in operation, which is expected to be in the late summer of this year.

As I said yesterday, I should be delighted to have any drafting revisions or other comments that you would like to make. It might save a great deal of time if you would telephone me or Lawrie Johns - 3388 or 5525 - with any comments and I will then send you any revised version that may be necessary. I am copying this to Clifford Boulton as well to keep him in touch.

Yours truly
K.S. Morgan

K.S. Morgan
Editor

Copies to: N. Sanders, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister ✓
J. Hawkins



25 MAR 1960

No. 10
10

Volume 981

No 142



SAMPLE

distributed on 24/3

Thursday
20 March 1980

HOUSE OF COMMONS
OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATES

(HANSARD).

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Wednesday 19th March 1980

[Continuation from Col. 232]

TRADE

Rail Exports

58. **Mr. Snape** asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he is satisfied with the level of Government support to United Kingdom rail exports.

Mr. Dalyell asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he is satisfied with the level of Government support to United Kingdom rail exports; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Parkinson: Yes. The full range of the Government's services for exporters, administered by the British Overseas Trade Board, and by the Export Credits Guarantee Department, is available to, and has been well used by, United Kingdom exporters of railway equipment and services.

Tobacco Advertising

Mr. George Robertson asked the Secretary of State for Trade what representations he has received from the chairman of the Advertising Association regarding further controls on tobacco advertising; and if he will make a statement.

Mrs. Sally Oppenheim [*pursuant to her reply 7th March 1980 c. 364*]: The Advertising Association and a number of organisations representing manufacturers which advertise, the advertising agencies and the printing media have written to me expressing concern about press reports which had suggested that the Government are pressing the tobacco industry to restrict substantially the level of its advertising in the interests of health. I have now replied pointing out that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Social Services is committed to exploring to the full the scope for voluntary co-operation before any other measures may be decided upon.

CIVIL SERVICE

Select Committees (Departmental Evidence)

Mr. Christopher Price asked the Minister for the Civil Service if he will now review

the guidelines for Government Departments for the provision of evidence to select committees.

Mr. Channon: The memorandum of guidance to officials, which was issued in 1976, is now being brought up to date.

Manpower

Mr. Trippier asked the Minister for the Civil Service, what savings have been made in manpower within the Civil Service since 3 May.

Mr. Channon: Between 1 April 1979 and 1 January 1980 the total number of Civil Service staff in post fell by 24,500.

Mr. John Mackay asked the Minister for the Civil Service what is the size of the Civil Service at the most recent convenient date; and what it was on 1 April 1979.

Mr. Channon: At 1 January 1980 there were 707,800 civil servants in post in central government departments. At 1 April 1979 the corresponding figure was 732,300.

Mr. van Straubenzee asked the Minister for the Civil Service by how much manpower in the Civil Service increased between February 1974 and May 1979, and since May 1979.

Mr. Channon: Staff in post in central Government Departments increased by 37,900 between 1 January 1974 and 1 April 1979. Between 1 April 1979 and 1 January 1980 there was a reduction of 24,500. Information on staff numbers is collected quarterly at 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October. Details are not held centrally for other months of the year.

Civil Servants (Outside Employment)

Mr. Cryer asked the Minister for the Civil Service if he will review the present rules governing the acceptance of posts in private industry by civil servants.

Mr. Channon: The present rules were laid down by the previous Government following a review in 1975. The Select Committee on the Treasury and the Civil Service have recently taken evidence on

this subject and I should like to consider its recommendations before taking any decisions on this topic.

Rayner Inquiries

Mr. Peter Lloyd asked the Minister for the Civil Service if he will make a statement on the current position of inquiries by Sir Derek Rayner into the Civil Service.

Mr. Channon: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers I gave to the hon. Member for Wolverhampton, North-East (Mrs. Short), on 23 January and to my hon. Friend the Member for Staffordshire, South-West (Mr. Cormack) on 4 February. Some additional departmental scrutinies have since been agreed and I will publish the details in the *Official Report*.

Information following the answer given by Mr. Paul Channon to Mr. Peter Lloyd on Wednesday 19 March:—

ADDITIONAL SCRUTINIES BY DEPARTMENTS Department and Topic

Home Office

The handling of applications for citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies.

H.M. Treasury

The procurement and movement functions of United Kingdom Treasury and Supply Delegation.

H.M. Customs and Excise

Topic 1. Present methods of revenue control of the production and warehousing of spirits.

Topic 2 (Joint scrutiny with the Inland Revenue). Co-operation between the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise in their dealings with insolvent traders/taxpayers.

Department for National Savings

The conversion to computers of premium savings bond records.

Paymaster General's Office

The working relationships between the Paymaster General's Office and the banks.

Wages and Salaries

Mr. Butcher asked the Minister for the Civil Service what saving in the wages and salaries bill has been achieved due to the non-replacement of jobs in the Civil Service since 1 May 1979.

Mr. Channon: There has been a reduction of 24,500 staff in central Government Departments in the period 1 April 1979 to 1 January 1980. Information is not held centrally in sufficient detail to quantify at this stage exactly the

savings in the wages and salaries bill. But in a full year the saving will be over £100 million.

Statistical Services

Mr. Waller asked the Minister for the Civil Service if he will make a statement about his review of the Government's statistical services.

Mr. Channon: The review of the Government's statistical services is now under way under the guidance and co-ordination of Sir Derek Rayner. Sir Derek will be reporting to my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Lord President of the Council on the outcome later in the year.

Economies

Mr. Kenneth Lewis asked the Minister for the Civil Service what further economies he expects to be able to make in the Civil Service during 1980-81.

Mr. Channon. I refer my hon. Friend to the statement I made on 6 December 1979—[Vol. 975, c. 627-40]—and to my reply to a question by my hon. Friend the Member for Brigg and Scunthorpe (Mr. Brown) on 14 March.

Pensions

Mr. Bruce-Gardyne asked the Minister for the Civil Service whether he has yet been able to reach a decision regarding the independent scrutiny of the Government Actuary's calculation of the value of index-linkage for public service pensions for the purpose of the current Civil Service pay review; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Channon: I refer my hon. Friend to my reply to a supplementary question by my hon. Friend the Member for Wolverhampton, South-West (Mr. Budgen) 20 February [Vol. 979, c. 440].

INDUSTRY

Energy Audits

Mr. Knox asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he will list the schemes introduced by his Department to promote the use of energy audits in industry; and if he will make a statement about the success of these schemes.

Mr. David Mitchell: The Department has no schemes to promote energy audits in industry. However, one of the benefits of the industrial energy thrift scheme is the stimulation of firms to undertake such audits. Studies done as a follow up to this scheme have shown that a selection of firms have taken energy saving measures, including the use of energy audits which have produced savings of £6 million per annum.

Man-made Fibres

Mr. Austin Mitchell asked the Secretary of State for Industry what proportion of the United Kingdom output of man-made fibre yarn is produced by firms which are not integrated backwards to suppliers of (a) bulk chemicals and (b) naphtha and similar feedstocks.

Mr. David Mitchell: Disclosure of the information would be in breach of the confidentiality provisions of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947.

Tobacco Industry (Investment Grants)

Mr. Wigley asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he will seek to amend the Industry Act 1972 to exclude the tobacco industry from eligibility for investment grants.

Mr. David Mitchell: No.

DEFENCE

Royal Dockyards (Civilian Employees)

Mr. Viggers asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on employment of civil servants in the Royal Dockyards.

Mr. Speed: The Royal dockyards employ about 33,000 civil servants consisting of various craft and non-craft industrial grades and professional, technical and administrative staff. As I announced on 25 October 1979, a study of the Royal dockyards has been set in hand. This study is not yet complete and regarding its outcome, I have nothing to add to the reply given on 12 February by my right hon. friend the Secretary of State.

NATO (Arms Spending)

Mr. Dan Jones asked the Secretary of State for Defence what has been the

annual increase in the amount of arms spending by each of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Powers over the past three years; and what increases are anticipated next year.

Mr. Pym: NATO does not publish figures on a constant price basis, and even for those NATO countries for which figures are available they would be at current prices and on current exchange rates, making no allowance for differing rates of inflation. It is not, therefore, possible to provide meaningful figures of the sort requested by the hon. Gentleman. No figures of any kind are available for 1980.

Figures showing annual real change in defence expenditure of the United Kingdom and the United States over the years 1974-75 to 1978-79 were set out in the answer I gave on 17 March to my hon. Friend, the Member for Norfolk, North-West (Mr. Brocklebank-Fowler).

Information Officers

Mr. Hordern asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the number of information officers, together with the number of supporting staff, in his Department in each of the last five years.

Mr. Pym: The numbers are as follows:

| Information Officers | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 January 1975 | ... | ... | 169 |
| 1 January 1976 | ... | ... | 179 |
| 1 January 1977 | ... | ... | 171 |
| 1 January 1978 | ... | ... | 155 |
| 1 January 1979 | ... | ... | 146 |
| 1 January 1980 | ... | ... | 145 |
| Support Staff | | | |
| 1 January 1975 | ... | ... | 114 |
| 1 January 1976 | ... | ... | 111 |
| 1 January 1977 | ... | ... | 105 |
| 1 January 1978 | ... | ... | 104 |
| 1 January 1979 | ... | ... | 103 |
| 1 January 1980 | ... | ... | 103 |

Submarine-launched Ballistic Missiles

Mr. Critchley asked the Secretary of State for Defence if it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to build a test-range for submarine-launched ballistic missile firings.

Mr. Pym: No.

BAOR (Offset Payments)

Mr. Churchill asked the Secretary of State for Defence, bearing in mind that

the foreign exchange costs of maintaining British Forces in Germany has increased six-fold between 1969-70 and 1979-80, while the offset payments by the Federal Republic of Germany towards these costs have slumped from 71 per cent. to 7 per cent. over the same period, if he will take steps to negotiate a new offset agreement.

Mr. Pym: No. The current Anglo-German offset agreement (Cmnd 6970) which was agreed between the previous Administration and the Federal German Government states that bilateral offset arrangements shall be terminated when the agreement expires on 31 March 1980.

Olympic Games

Mr. Churchill asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will authorise forthwith the release to the British Olympic Association of funds voluntarily subscribed by Service men and their families, so that these funds may be used without restriction in support of the purposes for which they were subscribed.

Mr. Pym: Some of the money which has been collected by the Services for the British Olympic Appeal has been paid over already. A further sum will be made available shortly and the remainder will be paid over in due course. The period of the appeal is not yet complete. So far as the use of these funds is concerned it is not open to the MOD to impose restrictions which are inconsistent with the purposes for which they were subscribed by Service men and their families.

Job Dispersal

Mr. McElhone asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will investigate the office accommodation at present available in Glasgow, in order that the dispersal programme of his Department to that city can be expedited.

Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg: I have been asked to reply.

The Property Services Agency has reviewed the availability of office accommodation in Glasgow, as part of the current investigation of the feasibility of a move of some MOD posts in advance of the main dispersal programme.

SCOTLAND

Intermediate Treatment Centres

Mr. Bill Walker asked the Secretary of State for Scotland how many intermediate treatment centres have been opened in Scotland in the last 10 years; how many of them have been closed; and for what reason.

Mr. Fairgrieve: Information about all intermediate treatment centres in Scotland is not held centrally. Thirty-three centres have received grants under the urban programme or section 10(1) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 in the past 10 years, of which only two no longer offer intermediate treatment. One of these closed as a result of redevelopment of the area, while the other now provides longer-term residential facilities.

South of Scotland Electricity Board

Mr. Cook asked the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what was (a) the time and date at which the maximum simultaneous demand for electricity occurred in the area of the South of Scotland Electricity Board in the current winter, (b) the amount of the maximum simultaneous demand and (c) the installed generating capacity of the South of Scotland Electricity Board at that date;

(2) if he will list in the *Official Report* the output from each power station operated by the South of Scotland Electricity Board: (a) on the date of maximum simultaneous demand and (b) over the most recent convenient six months.

Mr. Alexander Fletcher: I am asking the chairman of the board to write to the hon. Member.

Information Officers

Mr. Hordern asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the number of information officers, together with the number of supporting staff, there were in his Department in each of the last five years.

Mr. Younger: The number of information officer group staff and supporting

staff in the Scottish Information Office at 1 January in each of the last five years were:

| Information Officer Group Staff | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 1975 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| 1976 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| 1977 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| 1978 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| 1979 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| Support Staff | | | | | |
| 1975 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| 1976 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| 1977 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| 1978 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| 1979 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |

Outstanding Buildings and Conservation Areas

Mr. David Price asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the total amount of money made available from central government funds in repair grants for outstanding buildings and conservation areas from the Historic Buildings Council in the fiscal year 1978-79.

Mr. Rifkind: The grants offered for outstanding buildings and conservation areas on the recommendation of the Historic Buildings Council for Scotland in 1978-79 were £0.86 million and £0.25 million respectively.

Electricity Demand

Mr. Ancram asked the Secretary of State for Scotland whether there has been any change in the last two years in the projections of demand for electricity in the South of Scotland Electricity Board area for the next 20 years; and, if so, in what respect.

Mr. Alexander Fletcher: The Scottish electricity boards have over the last two years reduced their estimates of future demand for electricity in line with changing assumptions about the prospects for national economic growth, and are at present carrying out a further review of their estimates in the light of the latest economic forecasts.

Road Traffic Act 1975

Mr. George Robertson asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what guidance he has given to local authorities about implementing section 8 of the Road Traffic Act 1975.

Mr. Rifkind: No written guidance has been issued by my Department. Section 8 of the Road Traffic Act 1974, which was brought into operation in Scotland on 1 April 1979, describes in very specific terms the duty placed on local highway authorities. In view of this, the great diversity of conditions pertaining in Scotland and the responsibility of each authority for its own staffing and organisation, it was decided that specific written guidance would not be appropriate. Technical advice and assistance on accident investigation and its application has however been available to authorities through the Scottish Road Safety Advisory Unit of my Department. Moreover, the Institute of Highway Engineers are to publish a code of practice which should be of considerable assistance to local authorities in carrying out the duty conferred on them by section 8.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Death Grant

Mr. Paul Dean asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many people are not entitled to the full amount of the death grant on grounds of age; and what would be the additional cost of full entitlement.

Mr. Prentice: It is estimated that, in 1980-81, 110,000 people will die, for whom only a half-rate grant will be payable because they were over 55 (men) or 50 (women) on 5 July 1948; that 20,000 people will die, for whom no grant will be payable because they were over 65 (men) or 60 (women) on 5 July 1948; and that 15,000 children will die, for whom reduced grants will be payable because they are under 18. To pay the full £30 grant in all cases would cost about £2.5 million a year extra.

Mr. Wigley asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many representations he has received from community health councils and area health authorities, respectively, concerning the need to increase substantially the level of death grant.

Mr. Prentice: Since January 1979, my right hon. Friend and I have received 19 such representations from community health councils and one from an area health authority.

South East Thames Regional Health Authority (Secure Units)

Mr. Crouch asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will arrange for an exhibition relating to the South East Thames regional health authority's secure units to be displayed in the Upper Waiting Hall.

Sir George Young: I understand that arrangements have been made with the authorities of the House for an exhibition by the South-East Thames regional health authority in the Upper Waiting Hall for the week beginning 24 March.

War Pensions

Mr. Colvin asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will review the system for paying war pensions to pensioners who are totally unable to work as a result of their war injuries, with a view to entitling them automatically to a war pension at the 100 per cent. rate instead of, as at present, relying on the unemployment supplement topping-up system.

Mr. Prentice: No. Unemployability supplement (at present £24-£70 a week with increases for dependants) is payable in addition to the basic war disablement pension, including the 100 per cent rate.

Private Patients (Bad Debts)

Mr. Pavitt asked the Secretary of State for Social Services (1) if he will publish in the *Official Report* a table showing the bad debts incurred by private patients in national health service hospitals in each of the last five years in each of the four Thames regional health authorities;

(2) why there is no way of identifying the volume of bad debts owed by private patients to the 13 London teaching hospitals.

Sir George Young: It is for health authorities to decide when an outstanding debt becomes a bad debt and should be written off. The only information returned to the Department on debts written off is contained in the statement of losses each health authority submits along with its annual accounts. These statements do not contain information relating to individual hospitals, nor are the figures of debts written off divided in a way which enables the identification of amounts written off in respect of private patients.

Such detail could only be obtained by a special inquiry of the health authorities concerned.

Benzodiazine

Mr. Austin Mitchell asked the Secretary of State for Social Services when the guidelines currently being drawn up by the Committee on the Review of Medicines on benzodiazine will be published; and when they will be distributed to general practitioners.

Sir George Young: Arrangements are in hand for early publication in the *British Medical Journal*, to draw the Committee's recommendation to the attention of general practitioners.

Nursery School Children (Health Surveillance)

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what procedures there are to ensure that there is adequate sharing of information about a child's condition following health surveillance of children in nursery schools and classes; and if he plans to strengthen the existing position.

Sir George Young: It is for each health authority to decide on appropriate procedures within its own area. Circular HC(78)5 drew attention to the inter-relationship between the health, education and social needs of children and their families and to the need to develop a closer partnership between parents and professional staff. A paper "Prevention in the Child Health Services", prepared in the Department following consultations with health authorities and interested professional organisations and recently made available for information, stresses the need for adequate arrangements to be made to deal with abnormalities or deviations from the normal which may be discovered as a result of health surveillance.

Where child abuse is suspected, existing guidance stresses the importance of co-ordination of professional services. We are planning to augment this guidance shortly with a circular on child abuse registers.

Drugs (Adverse Reactions)

Mr. Ashley asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will list the schemes that have been proposed by the Committee on Safety of Medicines to detect adverse reaction to drugs by post marketing surveillance, giving the dates at which they were proposed; if he will list the official bodies with whom the schemes have been discussed; and if he will make a statement on the progress of each scheme and on the present position.

Dr. Vaughan: I shall let the right hon. Gentleman have a reply shortly.

Mr. Ashley asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if the total use of drugs is so extensive that their adverse effects present a major health problem; and if he is satisfied with the amount of money and facilities used to gain an understanding of the dangers of treatment.

Dr. Vaughan: Accurate figures are not available for the total incidence of morbidity as a result of adverse effects of licensed drugs in the United Kingdom. It is, however, clear from surveys that have been conducted that the benefits of modern drugs used in accordance with the terms of the licence far outweigh the risks associated with their use.

Substantial resources are devoted to ensuring that as much as possible is known about new drugs before they are licensed, though improvements are desirable in the procedures for monitoring the effects of drugs on patients thereafter.

Mr. Ashley asked the Secretary of State for Social Services to what extent drug companies insert patient information leaflets into their drug packaging; if the Department of Health and Social Security is encouraging such action; and if it will consider making it mandatory.

Dr. Vaughan: Although statistics are not available, it is clear that only a comparatively small number of packaged medicinal products contain patient information leaflets.

Whilst I approve of the provision of such leaflets I have no plans to make it compulsory.

Mr. Ashley asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if the Committee on Safety of Medicines passes on to doctors none, some or all of the information it receives concerning adverse reactions to drugs, prior to the issue, where appropriate, of a yellow warning notice.

Dr. Vaughan: Information about reports of suspected adverse reactions received by the Committee on Safety of Medicines is not routinely sent to doctors. However, information about individual drugs or groups of drugs is available on request and doctors submitting adverse reaction reports are normally offered further information about the drugs on which they have reported. Copies of the register of adverse reactions compiled from reports have been issued to medical schools, post-graduate medical centres, regional and area pharmaceutical officers and hospital principal pharmacists; the last such issue was in 1977.

Drugs

Mr. Ashley asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will instruct the Committee on Safety of Medicines to make a public statement on each occasion that the Committee on Safety of Medicines orders the withdrawal or curtailment of individual drugs.

Dr. Vaughan: The Committee on Safety of Medicines advises the licensing authority on matters relating to the safety of drugs. Decisions of the licensing authority to revoke or vary a licence for a drug are made public when it is considered in the public interest to do so.

Mr. Ashley asked the Secretary of State for Social Services (1) if he will list the names of drugs which have been withdrawn from the market voluntarily by the manufacturers in each of the last 10 years; (2) if he will list the names of the drugs for which the manufacturers' recommendations or claims have been modified on the instructions of the licensing authorities in each of the last 10 years; (3) if he will list the names of the drugs which have been withdrawn on the instructions of the licensing authority in the last 10 years; and what was the reason for the instruction in each case.

Dr. Vaughan: Departmental records are not kept in a way which would enable information requested to be obtained without disproportionate expenditure.

Regional Health Authorities (London)

Mr. Norman Atkinson asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what was the total amount of money allocated to each of the four Greater London regional health authorities for the latest year available; how these allocations compare per head of population with the national average; and what proportion of this money he estimates will be spent on teaching hospitals.

Dr. Vaughan: The following table gives the four Thames regional health authorities' combined revenue and capital cash limits for 1979-80 and a per capita comparison with the national average:—

| | | Combined revenue and capital cash limit | |
|-----------------------|--------|---|--|
| | | £ million | |
| North-West Thames RHA | ... | 436.552 | |
| North-East Thames RHA | ... | 483.620 | |
| South-East Thames RHA | ... | 455.036 | |
| South-West Thames RHA | ... | 355.611 | |
| England | | 5,201.830 | |
| | | Per head of population | |
| | | £ | |
| North-West Thames RHA | ... | 127.19 | |
| North-East Thames RHA | ... | 130.86 | |
| South-East Thames RHA | ... | 127.72 | |
| South-West Thames RHA | ... | 124.55 | |
| England | | 112.23 | |

Details of allocations to teaching hospitals are not held centrally. This is a matter for the health authorities concerned.

Disabled Persons

Mr. Alfred Morris asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what representations he had received from the Royal

College of Nursing with regard to improving provision for disabled persons who are cared for in their own homes; what reply he had sent; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Prentice: The general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing wrote to my right hon. Friend last autumn. Her letter covered a number of points including income for the severely disabled and transport for disabled people. My right hon. Friend replied on 30 November 1979 and a copy of the relevant parts of that letter has been sent to the right hon. Gentleman.

Young Persons (Supplementary Benefit)

Mr. Best asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what proposals he has for helping young people aged 16 to 17 years to qualify for supplementary benefit where they are disabled or in local authority care.

Mr. Paul Dean asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what proposals he has for helping young people aged 16 to 17 years to qualify for supplementary benefit where they are disabled or in local authority care.

Mrs. Chalker: Following discussions in Committee on the Social Security Bill, I am pleased to announce that regulations to be made under the Supplementary Benefits Act will, from November this year, enable young people aged 16-17 who are receiving non-contributory invalidity pension to count their period in receipt of NCIP towards qualification for the long-term rate of supplementary benefit. The regulations will also enable young people aged 16 or over in local authority care to qualify for supplementary benefit whether or not they are in a local authority home; their requirements will be assessed in most cases in the same way as those of a non-householder.



1. ✓ CF - has minutes / post a copy
again?

2. Nick (o/s)

Civil Service Department
Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ
Telephone 01-273 3000

Minister of State

John Stevens Esq
Private Secretary to the
Chancellor of the Duchy
of Lancaster
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2AT

2. 21/3

21 March 1980

Dear John

attached

Thank you for your letter of 7 March in which you set out proposals for easing the difficulties presently experienced by the House because of the late availability of the Official Report.

As you know, I was a little perturbed by the plan to set an early deadline for delivery of Written Answers. I feel that this is a deadline which Departments might not be able to meet. Since then Nick Sanders (No 10) has also expressed concern about this and he suggested that it might be the subject of informal discussion amongst Parliamentary Clerks. Separately, Ken Morgan (the Editor of the Official Report) has asked for a meeting between his staff and Parliamentary Clerks.

I spoke briefly to you ^{last Wednesday} yesterday about this proposed meeting with the Official Report and subsequently had a very useful informal chat with Ken Morgan.

There is clearly some misunderstanding between Departments and the Official Report and perhaps some difference of opinion. I think that the suggested meeting would certainly help both to iron out our differences and, I hope, lead to better working relations. The sort of things we need to talk about are:

- i. the need for an early deadline;
- ii. the difficulties this presents to Departments;
- iii. what can be done by Departments to speed things up;
- iv. how the Official Report can help Departments; and
- v. other problems which cause delay (eg large tables).

In the end we need to come to some conclusion about what deadline, if any, can realistically be set. Subsequently, in the light of any conclusions that may be drawn, we must put forward revised proposals for easing these problems.

I understand that the Department of the Clerk of the House are anxious that this should be cleared up quickly and Ken Morgan has now arranged for the meeting to take place in Committee Room 15 on Monday, 24 March at 11.15am.

... There are likely to be six or seven representatives of the Official Report present at the meeting and to avoid the whole thing getting out of hand I attach a list of the names of a representative selection of Parliamentary Clerks who will be able to attend. I would of course welcome any additional names you may care to suggest.

I am copying this note to those on the attached list and also to Nick Sanders (No 10), Peter Moore (No 12) and Frank Grigson (HMSO) who may also wish to come along.

Yours Sincerely

John C. Hawkins

J C HAWKINS
Parliamentary Clerk

PS: I am also copying this to Ken Morgan who, I have assumed, will wish to chair the meeting - informally

John
2/3

MEETING BETWEEN OFFICIAL REPORT AND PARLIAMENTARY CLERKS
MONDAY, 24 MARCH 1980, COMMITTEE ROOM 15, HOUSE OF COMMONS

DISTRIBUTION:

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Alistair Kennard | No 10 |
| Keith Millar | Chancellor of the Duchy |
| Arthur Murray | Energy |
| Peter Brown | Environment and Transport |
| Eleanor Sanders | DHSS |
| Jim Costin | Industry |
| Jack Reynolds | Scottish Office |
| Philip Cohen | Trade |
| Brian Dyer | Treasury |



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 March 1980

Availability of Hansard

As I told you on the telephone this morning, we have received a copy of your letter of 7 March to John Hawkins. I had a very helpful conversation with Michael Townley about it, during which I pointed out that in our view an absolute deadline of 1700 for submission of written answers would cause grave difficulties for Departments. It would inevitably mean that a larger proportion of priority written answers would have to receive holding replies, and would present problems for Parliamentary Clerks facing the need to revise answers or prepare drafts quickly.

I understand that a revised draft letter will now be prepared. I think that it is worth considering whether it ought not to be the subject of informal consultation with Parliamentary Clerks before it is issued, and in any case we should be glad to see the final text in draft.

I am copying this letter to John Hawkins (Civil Service Department), David Wright (Cabinet Office) and Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office).

W. J. SANDERS

J. WW Stevens, Esq.,
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office.

MAR 1980



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

7 March 1980

See job

AVAILABILITY OF HANSARD

We spoke this morning about the proposals from the Table Office/HMSO/Hansard aimed at easing the difficulties which the House is generally experiencing at the moment because of late availability of papers. You have had a copy of the letter from Clifford Boulton, the head of the Table Office, setting out the new procedure; the Chancellor of the Duchy has also seen the proposals, thinks they are excellent, and is anxious for them to be implemented as quickly as possible.

... Attached is the advice I have now received from Michael Townley in the Cabinet Office about how we should proceed. I did wonder whether the draft letter to Private Secretaries which he proposes should be sent out on your Parliamentary Clerk net?

If you thought this was the right thing to do I should be quite content for you to send it but I am anxious that there should be no doubt about the Chancellor of the Duchy's backing for the new procedure and his wish that Departments should make every effort to ensure that it operates successfully.

When you have studied the attached papers perhaps we could have a further word about it. Whoever sends the letter to Departments it would need to go out very early next week.

John Stevens

J W STEVENS
Private Secretary

John Hawkins Esq
Parliamentary Clerk
Civil Service Department
Old Admiralty Building
Whitehall
SW1

Mr Stevens

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I have had a word with the Editor of Hansard about Clifford Boulton's letter. HMSO would be able to start the new procedure for Written Answers forthwith, but the Editor suggests that the new procedure should operate as from 17 March. If the Chancellor of the Duchy is content with this, perhaps you would let me know and I will inform the Editor accordingly.

On the basis of a 17 March start for the Written Answer procedure, I suggest the attached (i) arranged Written PQ; and (ii) a letter for you to send to private secretaries about the new procedures.

MW
M W Townley
5 March 1980

DRAFT ARRANGED PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, whether any steps are being taken to ameliorate the present delays in the publication of debates and Written Answers.

DRAFT REPLY

HMSO are arranging to deliver to the Vote Office on the following morning a printer's proof copy of debates up to 10 pm on any occasion when the published Daily Part ends before 10 pm.

HMSO are also arranging to provide to the Vote Office on the morning after Written Answers are delivered a proof copy of all such Written Answers. These Answers will thereafter be published with the following Daily Part. This procedure will start on 17 March.

It is hoped that the provision of this extra material will go some way towards making good the present shortcomings in the availability of the Official Report.

DRAFT LETTER TO PRIVATE SECRETARIES

As you will be aware, there has recently been increasing delay in the availability of the published Hansard record of proceedings in the House during the later part of the evening, and also in the publication of Written Answers.

To help deal with this problem HMSO are introducing two new procedures:

i. Debates

A printer's proof version of debates up to 10 pm (including details of any division) will in future be delivered to the Vote Office on the following morning on any occasion when the published Daily Part ends before 10 pm.

ii. Written Answers

As from 17 March, HMSO will deliver to the Vote Office on the morning after Written Answers are delivered a proof copy of all such Answers. These will be published with the following Daily Part, ie Written Answers should consistently appear one day late.

If these new procedures are to succeed, it is clearly important that Written Answers should be received by the Editor of the Official Report as early as possible. He has asked for Departmental co-operation in observing the following deadlines:-

- i. all unanswered Oral Questions by ~~4.00~~ 4 pm;
- ii. all other Written Answers, wherever possible, by 4 pm;
- iii. final deadline (to be used only when strictly necessary) 5 pm;
- iv. on Fridays Noon.

The Editor has also asked that where the Answer includes a table of statistics, this should be received 24 hours earlier.

I have been requested to take this opportunity of reminding colleagues of the additional printing work entailed when initial 'holding' answers, followed later by substantive Answers, are given to priority Written Questions. Whilst it is recognised that the use of 'holding' answers is sometimes inevitable, may I ask that the additional printing involved should be taken into account by Departments when this procedure is under consideration.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

3rd March 1980.

Dear Jim,

Availability of Hansard.

As I mentioned to you on Friday, H.M.S.O. are able to provide some extra material to make good shortcomings in the availability of Hansard. This consists of:

- (i) Debates. Delivery to the Vote Office on the following morning of a Printer's Proof version of debates up to 10.00 pm. plus division, on those occasions when the published Daily Part ends before 10.00 p.m. I enclose a sample copy of the style of such a Proof. It is hoped, in fact, that the occasions when debate is not published in the Daily Part up to 10.00 p.m. will become increasingly rare.
- (ii) Written Answers to Questions. There has been a serious slippage in the publication of written Answers. H.M.S.O. say they can provide to the Vote Office on the morning after Answers are delivered a proof copy of all the Written Answers. These will then be published with the following Daily Part - that is, there will be a consistent one-day disparity between the date of the debate, and the date of the Written Answers. This will be a considerable improvement on the present position, when Answers are sometimes up to a week late.

May I suggest that you agree with the editor of Hansard the date when the new Written Answer publication will begin? You may then wish:-

- (a) to arrange for the House to be informed about both the above publications (perhaps by way of a Written Question) and
- (b) to arrange for Private Secretaries to be advised that Written Answers must be received by a fixed time in the afternoon in future in order for them to be published. The precise time is a matter for the editor of Hansard.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Ken Morgan.

Yours ever,

Clifford

C. J. Boulton.

Principal Clerk, Table Office.

J. W. Stevens, Esq.,
Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the
Duchy of Lancaster.



21 MAR 1980

Parliament

B/F 17/3.80
✓ Overtaken NFA
HJ



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90



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See file

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Availability of Hansard.

As I mentioned to you on Friday, H.M.S.O. are able to provide some extra material to make good shortcomings in the availability of Hansard. This consists of:

- (i) Debates. Delivery to the Vote Office on the following morning of a Printer's Proof version of debates up to 10.00 pm. plus division, on those occasions when the published Daily Part ends before 10.00 p.m. I enclose a sample copy of the style of such a Proof. It is hoped, in fact, that the occasions when debate is not published in the Daily Part up to 10.00 p.m. will become increasingly rare.
- (ii) Written Answers to Questions. There has been a serious slippage in the publication of written Answers. H.M.S.O. say they can provide to the Vote Office on the morning after Answers are delivered a proof copy of all the Written Answers. These will then be published with the following Daily Part - that is, there will be a consistent one-day disparity between the date of the debate, and the date of the Written Answers. This will be a considerable improvement on the present position, when Answers are sometimes up to a week late.

May I suggest that you agree with the editor of Hansard the date when the new Written Answer publication will begin? You may then wish:-

- (a) to arrange for the House to be informed about both the above publications (perhaps by way of a Written Question) and
- (b) to arrange for Private Secretaries to be advised that Written Answers must be received by a fixed time in the afternoon in future in order for them to be published. The precise time is a matter for the editor of Hansard.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Ken Morgan.

Yours ever,
Clifford

C. J. Boulton.

Principal Clerk, Table Office.

J. W. Stevens, Esq.,
Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the
Duchy of Lancaster.



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