

CONFIDENTIAL



J. Vercher
A. David

Colin Fran

CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AZ
Telephone 01 273 5400

12
12/5

Sir Ian Bancroft G.C.B.
Head of the Home Civil Service

Tim Lankester Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

13 May 1981

Dear Mr. Lankester.

INDUSTRIAL ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

The overall level of industrial action, measured in numbers of staff involved in selective strike action, remains broadly the same as the last report (4490 compared with the previous 4552), with a small increase in the numbers on TRD (465:451). By departments, the numbers on strike in MOD have increased, with the other major departments remaining stable or showing in some places a reduction in numbers. Similarly the pattern of action in major departments is substantially the same as reported on 8 May. The Ministry of Defence, Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, DHSS, Departments of Trade and Industry, Passport Offices and Scottish Courts are still bearing the brunt of the disruption. However, the IR mail sorting centre at Kew have returned to work, and unofficial action at DHSS local offices in Scotland has ceased.

New developments are summarised below:

- HO: Support for the POA's call for the operation of 'Sunday working' on 11 May was patchy. In some cases Governors handled personally the transfer of prisoners on remand to police custody and the discharge of prisoners due for release.
- MOD: There have been several reports of 'blacking' at Devonport.
- DVLC: A notice was issued yesterday to all DVLC staff explaining to them the consequence of industrial action and of action which is tantamount to a breach of discipline; flexitime will be suspended; and other appropriate contingency arrangements introduced.
- IBAP: 14 staff in the Beef Imports/Exports section have voted to continue their strike. An agreement has been reached with the unions to ensure the delivery of mail and the processing of urgent licence applications. It is likely that these licences will be 'blacked' by Customs staff, however.

CONFIDENTIAL

General Registers of Scotland: Picketing by Scottish Office staff is interfering with the receipt of 1981 census documents. Contingency arrangements have been made to take mail to another building.

On the prospect of escalation by the unions, union conferences held so far have voted in favour of escalation and have given a mandate for a one-week strike if thought to be necessary. A week's strike is unlikely to take place, if at all, before early June. The proposal will be discussed by the CCSU on 26 May.

Copies as before.

Yours sincerely
C.A. Williamson

JJ JEREMY COLMAN
Private Secretary

SELECTIVE ACTION BY NON-INDUSTRIAL CIVIL SERVANTS
SUMMARY OF POSITION - 12 MAY 1981

Department	Number on strike	Remarks
Customs & Excise	422	Strikes by computer, customs and other staff at Southend Computer Centre (308); London Airport (13); South Coast Ports (59); Manchester Betting Duty Office (42).
Ministry of Defence	820	Strikes by computer and other staff at 4 dockyards, 4 RN stores depots, 2 RN armaments depots, Clyde Submarine Base, Feltham and Taunton (Mapping), Bath, 6 Oil Fuel Depots.
Environment/Transport	10	Cartographers on strike at HQ, Marsham Street. 6 Driving Examiners at Widnes.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	214	Passport Examiners at the London, Liverpool, Peterborough, Newport and Glasgow Passport Offices.
Dept. of Health and Social Security	240	230 staff on strike at Newcastle computer centre; 10 staff at North Fylde central Accounts Office.
Home Office	10	Staff at Gloucester and Bristol Prisons.
Inland Revenue	2220	Staff on strike at Shipley, Cumbernauld and Worthing computer centres; staff at various Collection Offices and the mail sorting centre at Kew. (1735 on strike, 487 not)
Paymaster General's Office	27	Strike by 12 computer staff; 12 in Finance Branch, disrupting Government banking transactions; telephonists.
Property Services Agency	56	Strikes by maintenance engineers at RAF Brawdy, Pendine, Aberporth, Yeovilton St Athans, Treow, Swansea District Works Office, and Cardiff DWO.

Departments	Number on strike	Remarks
Depts. of Trade and Industry	186	Strike by staff who handle search facilities and Companies House, London and Cardiff; telephonists and messengers at Cardiff.
Scottish Office	25	Staff at the Scottish Computer Centre and 1 CPSA member involved in organising industrial action.
Scottish Courts Administration	235	Strike by staff at Edinburgh and Glasgow Sheriff Courts.
Registers of Scotland	11	Strike by Administrative staff.
IBAP	14	Beef Imports/Exports Section, Reading.
TOTAL	4490	