



Civil Service

PRIME MINISTER

For information

MP  
17/4

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PRIME MINISTER

SENIOR POSTS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE

Flag A

Thank you for sending me a copy of your Personal Minute of 31 March.

2. My officials have been conducting an examination of the role and structure of the Northern Ireland Office and expect to be able to recommend the abolition of one Permanent Secretary (NICS) post during the present financial year. The removal of this post, which equates to a Deputy Secretary in the UKCS, will represent a saving of 7% of senior staff. And we recently suppressed the post of Clerk to the Assembly, which was occupied by the equivalent of a Permanent Secretary (NICS).

3. I shall be examining critically all levels of my Office, even including those directly concerned with Law and Order or other reserved and excepted matters, as work on the establishment of a devolved Administration progresses: the size and shape of the Northern Ireland Office will depend critically on this.

4. I shall, of course, be examining the application of the criteria in your minute to Northern Ireland Departments, although savings in the relatively small number of senior posts - about 30 - may not be easy to find.

5. I am copying this minute to the recipients of yours.

*[Handwritten signature]*

HA

17 April 1980

17 APR 1980

