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PRIME MINISTER

CIVIL SERVICE MANPOWER REDUCTION IN 1980-81

In your Personal Minute (M5/80) of 5 March to the Home Secretary, you referred to Cabinet's decision that there should be an overall reduction in Civil Service manpower costs in 1980-81 averaging as near to 2½% as possible, taking account of very limited exceptions which should be confined so far as possible to Prison Officers and a few very small Departments. You asked me to report the final outcome to Cabinet.

The exceptions which have now been settled are as follows:

i. Home Office, Scottish Office, Northern Ireland Office

Prison staff in all three Departments, with a few staff in the Northern Ireland Office dealing with law and order problems, have been exempted. The Secretary of State for Scotland has decided to make special arrangements for the State Hospital, but apart from this, other areas in these Departments will take the 2½% cut;

ii. Small Departments

The following small, mostly legal Departments have been exempted altogether: Law Officers' Department; Director of Public Prosecutions; Lord Advocate's Department; Crown Office/Procurator Fiscal Service; Scottish Courts Administration; Northern Ireland Courts Service; Treasury Solicitor; Exchequer and Audit Department; Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration;

iii. GCHQ

Complete exemption from the reduction.

The position of the British Council, one of the fringe bodies included in the Central Vote arrangements, is still under review.

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All other Departments will be making a reduction of at least 2½%.

The effect of the exemptions is to give an overall cut in manpower costs in 1980-81 for the Civil Service as a whole of 2.3%.

I am copying this minute to members of the Cabinet, the Minister of Transport, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

P.C.

PAUL CHANNON  
6 June 1980

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