



David Wolfson

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From the Private Secretary

7 November 1980

Mike Pattison Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Mike,

CIVIL SERVICE NUMBERS

You telephoned me last week asking for some further information on the Lord President's minute to the Prime Minister of 29 October.

In fact, since April 1979 the reduction in Civil Service numbers of 35 200 by 1 October 1980 has been achieved almost entirely by the abolition of posts. So far very little work seems to have been put out to the private sector although we have been collecting information on this centrally only since July this year. There have been a few book-keeping transactions but the largest number of those under this heading are those reported in the Lord President's minute. You may recall that I explained that 200 of these arose because one department had been wrongly including a number of casual staff in their totals and a further 1300 because certain PSA staff working for and paid for by the US Forces were excluded from the numbers to ensure consistent treatment with a similar group of staff in MOD. The only other significant change was at July 1980 when certain staff on period appointments were included in the numbers for the first time to ensure consistency with the general practice throughout the service: this added 300 to the total. Overall, between April 1979 and October 1980 these book-keeping transactions account for a net reduction in numbers of 1000.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Buckley.

J BUCKLEY



7 NOV 1980