



✓ M.P.

Civil Service Department  
Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ  
01-273 4400

From the Private Secretary

12 February 1981

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

*Dear Mike,*

CIVIL SERVICE NUMBERS: 1 JANUARY 1981

Each quarter the Lord President sends the Prime Minister a note about Civil Service numbers. The numbers for 1 January were available on the day before the economic debate and I therefore telephoned Clive Whitmore on 4 February as soon as I had the numbers in case the Prime Minister wanted to use them in her speech. Our Minister of State answered a Question giving the numbers on the following day. This now puts the figures on record and gives you a bit more detail.

On 1 January 1981 there were 695,100 staff in post - a reduction of 2,000 since 1 October, and 37,200 (over 5%) since the Government took office. Reductions in this quarter total 4,900, mainly from Defence (2,500), the Environment Secretary's departments (600), Inland Revenue and Customs (400), the Employment Agencies (400), Trade and Industry (275), Agriculture (200) and Transport (160). Offsetting these are increases of 2,900 of which 2,000 are to deal with increased benefit work as unemployment has increased. A further 650 staff have been taken on in the prisons and to improve the administration of justice.

The number of industrials has come down by 1,600 and the non-industrials by 400. This apparent lack of balance between the two may be criticised but the increases of 2,900 are all non-industrials. That being so, we have not done badly to get the non-industrial figure down even by as little as 400 net.

The Lord President has worries about the future and he will be minuting the Prime Minister separately about these.

*Yours sincerely,  
Jim Buckley.*

J BUCKLEY