

PRIME MINISTER ^{MAP}
Manpower is still (just) on
a downward trend.

MAP
29/

PRIME MINISTER

CIVIL SERVICE STAFF NUMBERS

At Cabinet on 1 November 1979 it was agreed that all Ministers should take steps to ensure a continuing close scrutiny of trends in staff recruitment and replacement. Cabinet also decided that the results of that scrutiny should be regularly reported to CSD which would consolidate the departmental returns for a report to the Lord President and to you.

The new arrangements, together with a speeding up of the timetable for reporting changes, were introduced for the quarterly staff return for 1 January 1980. The returns show 707,800 permanent staff in post at that date. This is a reduction of 4,500 against the 1 October 1979 total of 712,300, reported to you in the Lord President's minute of 28 November, and of nearly 25,000 since 1 April 1979.

The major reductions in the last quarter have been in:

Inland Revenue	1,600
Property Services Agency and PSA Supplies	1,000
Defence	700
Employment	500
DHSS	500
Customs and Excise	300

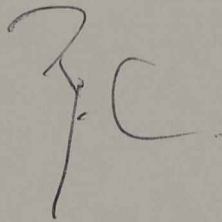
The only significant increases were in:

Manpower Services Commission (including the Employment Services Division and the Training Services Division)	+ 300	(mainly the establishment of casual staff to meet Youth Opportunity Programme and new Youth Centre commitments)
Home Office	+ 190	(mainly in the Prison Service)
Land Registry	+ 180	(mainly to deal with backlogs of land and property registration work)

A number of departments have indicated shortages of staff in clerical and secretarial grades because of high wastage and poor recruitment (particularly in London). Difficulties are also reported in obtaining sufficient ADP staff and in certain specialist areas.

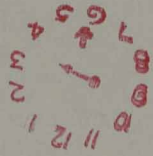
Departments have confirmed that they are on course for the achievement of the 1980-81 tranche of the cuts announced on 6 December.

I propose to publish the 1 January figures of 707,800 today in answer to a Question from John Butcher.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'P.C.', is centered on the page.

PAUL CHANNON

29 January 1980



29 JAN 1960