

PRIME MINISTER

You asked for some comparative figures about educational personnel. DES offer the attached response. I set it out in tabular form below, to the extent possible.

	<u>Primary Pupils</u>	<u>Secondary Pupils</u>	<u>Teachers + Lecturers</u>	<u>Non-teaching Staff</u>
1975	(Jan) 5.25 m	(Jan) 3.83 m	(March) 554,000	(March) 433,000
1979	(Jan) 4.88 m	(Jan) 4.14 m	(Sept.) 565,000	(Sept.) 424,000

The administrative staff figures are not available in comparable form, although DES comment in sub-paragraph 4 on the declining cost.

MP There seems some discrepancy between (iii) + (iv) (iii) seems to include CEO's (who are surely admin). (iv) says no comparable figures for admin. Are they included in non-teaching staff above or not?
 A ratio of staff / pupils $\approx 1:9$?

21 February 1980

(2) Why have we gone to Teachers + lecturers?
 Are all these non-teaching staff in schools?



205

434
212



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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

M A Pattison Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

21 February 1980

Dear Mike

You asked me earlier this week for information about numbers of pupils in schools and numbers of staff employed by local education authorities, with particular reference to administrative staff.

Most of the available information about England and Wales was summarised in Mr Carlisle's letters of 30 January to the Chancellor and 31 January to the Prime Minister. In more detail:-

- i. Between January 1975 and January 1979 the number of primary pupils (including under-5's) in England and Wales fell from 5.25 million to 4.88 million and the number of secondary pupils rose from 3.83 million to 4.14 million. In total, there was a fall of about 50,000 or about 0.5 per cent.
- ii. Between March 1975, when DOE first collected the information through the Joint Manpower Watch, and September 1979, the date for which the latest quarterly figures are available, the number of teachers and lecturers (expressed as full time equivalents) in schools and colleges in England and Wales rose from 554,000 to 565,000 or by 2 per cent.
- iii. In the same period the number of non-teaching staff, from chief education officers to cooks, fell from 433,000 to 424,000 or about 2 per cent. Thus total numbers employed by local authorities in education rose by 2,000 or 0.2 per cent, compared with an increase of about 30,000 or 3 per cent in all other local authority services.
- iv. No comparable time series of figures for administrative staff in the education service is available. But the Public Expenditure White Paper to be published next

ELIZABETH ROSS
TOWN HALL
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.



21 FEB 1980

month will show that between 1974-75 and 1978-79 the cost of educational administration in Great Britain, overwhelmingly by local authorities, fell from £363m to £334m, a reduction of 8 per cent when total spending on education fell by 1 per cent.

- v. An ad hoc survey by the Department of non-teaching staff in March 1977 yielded the results shown in the attached table. (The total of 399,000 is slightly less than the figure of 434,000 from the Joint Manpower Watch for the same date because of differences in the factors used for converting part time staff to full time equivalents.) You will see that the total number of administrative and clerical staff was about 60,000 of whom more than half were directly employed in schools and colleges in support of teachers and only just over one third in local authority administration.

I am copying this letter to Martin Hall (Treasury) and to David Edmonds (DOE).

Yours sincerely

R J Green

PP

R J GREEN
Private Secretary



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DES	
	Mr Jameson
	✓
C	Mr Syme
O	Mr Hudson
F	Mr Simpson
I	Mr Armstrong
E	Mr Ulrich
S	SCU
	Miss Stewart
	Mr Wilson

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
 ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON SE1 7PH
 TELEPHONE 01-928 9222
 FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP
 Prime Minister
 10 Downing Street
 LONDON SW1

31 January 1980
 Miss Dawkins

Dear Prime Minister,

You asked me in Cabinet this morning whether I could make any savings in non-teaching or teaching costs towards the further cuts in education rising to £34m in 1983-84 which Geoffrey Howe was seeking.

The Department of the Environment's Joint Manpower Watch (JMW) figures show that between March 1975, when they were first collected, and September 1979, the date of the last return, the number of non-teaching staff fell by just over 2 per cent. And John Biffen's paper C(80)7 shows that the decisions we took last autumn will mean a further fall of over 15 per cent by 1983-84.

The JMW figures for teachers and lecturers show an increase of just under 2 per cent since 1975; and John Biffen's paper records that our plans already provide for a fall in teacher numbers of more than 10 per cent by 1983-84. As a result the pupil teacher ratio in schools in 1983-84 will be 18.7, the same as it is now.

In the light of these figures I can do no other than stand by the judgement I expressed this morning that any further reductions would not be acceptable because they would mean a fall in educational standards.

I am sending copies of this letter to Geoffrey Howe, John Biffen and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours ever
 Mark*

MARK CARLISLE

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON SE1 7PH
TELEPHONE 01-928 9222
FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Chancellor of the Exchequer
The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Treasury
Parliament Street
LONDON
SW1P 3AG

DES
Mr Jameson
✓
Mr Syme
Mr Hudson
Mr Atkinson
Mr Ulrich

30 January 1980
SC 1
Mr Clark
Mr Forrester
Secs Clerks

Dear Geoffrey,

You asked me yesterday to consider a further reduction in non-teaching staff in the education service rising to 3 per cent by 1983-84, and this is reflected in paragraph 7 of C(80)9.

I have examined this again carefully, but I am clear that, as I indicated yesterday was likely to be my conclusion, this would not be possible without severe damage to education. The following points are relevant:-

- i. Whereas total numbers employed by local authorities in other services have risen by 3 per cent in the last five years, non-teaching staff (despite a growth in pupil and student numbers) have fallen by 2 per cent.
- ii. In the same period the cost of administration in the local authority education service has fallen by 10 per cent, and there are now fewer than 30,000 staff directly employed on educational administration to cope with a budget of £6 billion, nearly a million employees and 10 million pupils and students (and their parents).
- iii. The decisions we have already taken imply a further reduction of 15 per cent in non-teaching staff by 1983-84, a bigger fall either than in the school population or than in other services, in most of which you are seeking no further cuts of this kind.
- iv. Two fifths of non-teaching staff are employed in schools, either in support of teachers (as laboratory assistants, librarians and so) or on the routine but vital upkeep of premises. A further cut here would inevitably mean that teachers would have to undertake more essential non-teaching duties.

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Nearly all the rest are employed either in school meals, where our plans already entail a 20 per cent cut in staffing in 1980-81 itself, or in further education, where there will be further reductions as part of the 5 per cent cut in polytechnics and colleges on which we agreed yesterday.

I am sending copies of this letter to the other members of the Cabinet, Norman Fowler and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever

Mark

MARK CARLISLE

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