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PRIME MINISTER

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8/8*

1980 PAY REVIEW FOR CIVIL SERVICE SCIENTISTS

In my minute of 8 July I reported that the April 1980 pay review for Civil Service scientists was heading for arbitration. We have now received the award of the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal. The overall increases given average some 15% against 12.2% for the offer and 23% for the claim.

The award in substance confirms our case that there should be a marked downward shift in the pay of scientists relative to other civil servants. This applies particularly for the senior grades.

This is not quite as good as I had hoped for but better than I had feared. Given that this award can be met from the existing cash limit provisions for Civil Service pay, I believe that we should implement it. Subject to your views I intend to authorise that.

Copies of this letter go to Cabinet colleagues including the Minister of Transport and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

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SOAMES

8 August 1980