

1 agree with S.D.R.
Return to it in brief
note

Prime Minister

1.

MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE

Derek Rayner has
pressed hard to
extend repayment to
the Civil Service College,
but Mr Channon has
fought him to a temporary
standstill. Content
to let it rest for the
moment?

PRIME MINISTER

CHARGING FOR CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE COLLEGE COURSES

1. You may recall that the first Rayner project in CSD covered the question of charging for some courses at the Civil Service College. Owing to his absence in Zimbabwe while much of this was being considered, Christopher Soames asked me to deal with this matter and report directly to you. I have of course discussed this minute with him.

MAO
28/1/81

2. The first three items of the Action Plan have been completed. The College management information system has been reviewed. All Departments have been provided with a statement of the cost of their use of the College in the autumn term of 1979. Now that the review of management information is over, I have returned to the question of charging Departments for attendance at courses.

3. The Advisory Council for the College and the Principal Establishment Officers and Permanent Secretaries of other Departments have been consulted. Many Departments support the principle of repayment for common services. But virtually all have felt that in this particular case it would be counter-productive.

4. I also believe that the sort of investment concerned in the College's very small share of total Civil Service training goes wider than line management responsibilities, and is too important to be surrendered by the centre. It is only 3 per cent of all training in the Civil Service.

5. Sir Derek Rayner has been consulted. He still thinks that repayment is right in principle, but recognises that the question of College repayment is much less important than that of repayment for PSA goods and services - on which the need for a decision is imminent. He would not object if, for the time being, we put

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aside the question of College repayment in order to concentrate on the more important issue. Having now been into this with care, I think this is right. I propose to proceed accordingly - if you agree.

6. I am copying this minute to Sir Derek Rayner.

P.C.

PAUL CHANNON
18 November 1980