

cc Mr Wolfson  
Mr Duguid

1 (week end)



Prime Minister

Content with progress  
to date?

MA 10/11

PRIME MINISTER

SLIMMING DOWN STAFFS ENGAGED IN LOCAL AUTHORITY AFFAIRS  
AND INDUSTRIAL SPONSORSHIP

After a meeting with you in March, Paul Channon undertook to pursue with colleagues the reductions they were making in staffs engaged in local authority affairs and industrial sponsorship. These initiatives were endorsed by Cabinet on 1 May. *113*

... I attach a table summarising the position. One or two colleagues have still to decide their plans and their figures are not included. But the general picture is clear.

Local Authority Affairs

When we took office nearly 6,000 staff were employed in this field, excluding those engaged in law and order and schools inspection. The overall reduction now planned is 27%. The total savings of 1,600 are a useful contribution to our manpower target. They show, moreover, that we are substantially reducing intervention even at a time when there is pressure to do more in certain areas - like urban regeneration. They will help to impress upon local authorities our willingness to put our own house in order when we are looking to them to make cuts.

Industrial Sponsorship

Fewer resources are involved in this - about 4,000 staff. They are mainly in the Departments of Industry and Trade. Keith Joseph has given a lead with a 22% reduction. So far, as you will see from the table, the overall average reduction in Departments is 16%, but I hope we can improve on this in due course.

They may be planned but how far have they got?  
The reduction themselves are very modest - I should have we could look at that - 50% reduction - not

SOAMES

9 December 1980

LOCAL AUTHORITY STAFFS

	<u>Resources 1.4.79</u>	<u>Total Reductions Now Planned</u>	
Department of the Environment	3785	(say) 1200	(31%)
Department of Transport	303	9	( 3%)
Scottish Office	281	53	(18%)
Welsh Office	90	23	(25%)
DHSS	259	84	(33%)
Home Office	500	76	(15%) (a)
Department of Employment (DE MSC)	77 51	6 -	( 7%)
Department of Industry	8	1	(12%)
Department of Trade	19	5	(26%)
MAFF	10	-	(b)
DES	528	164	(31%)
Totals	<u>5911</u>	<u>1621</u>	<u>(27%)</u>

B

INDUSTRIAL SPONSORSHIP STAFFS

Department of Industry	2069	455	(22%)
Department of Trade	1202	96	( 8%) (c)
Department of Energy	208	34	(16%)
Department of Transport	120	5	( 4%)
Department of the Environment	100	2	( 2%)
Scottish Office	104	18	(17%) (c)
Welsh Office	90	8	( 9%)
DHSS	50	15	(30%)
MAFF	10	7	(70%)
Treasury	57	4	( 7%) (c)
Totals	<u>4010</u>	<u>644</u>	<u>(16%)</u>

Notes

- (a) Most of these staff are engaged in training for the Fire Service. The Home Secretary is looking at ways of increasing productivity and will in addition be making significant savings in the law and order field - not included in these figures.
- (b) Further savings not quantified.
- (c) Reply not yet received; savings shown were already achieved or firmly planned.