



PRIME MINISTER
The First of the Land President's
new monthly reports

no MP 28/11

PRIME MINISTER

CIVIL SERVICE STAFF NUMBERS

In my minute of 17 July, I reported the progress that we had made towards reducing the size and cost of the civil service - notably by the temporary freeze on recruitment and the adjustments to this year's cash limits.

Returns from departments show 712 300 permanent staff in post at 1 October this year. This compares with the provision of 740 000 at 1 April 1979 rising to 748 000 at 1 April 1980 which our predecessors made in this year's Estimates, and with the 723 000 allowed for after our adjustment to the cash limits.

There is also a satisfactory pattern of decline in the staff in post figures since April this year. The position is:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Staff in Post</u>	<u>% Change since 1 April</u>
1 April 1979	732 300	-
1 July 1979	723 700	- 1.2
1 October 1979	712 300	- 2.7

Reductions over this period for departments with more than 10 000 staff are as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>% Reduction</u>
Employment	7.2 →
National Savings	5.5
Inland Revenue	4.9 →
Property Services Agency	4.5 →
Environment	3.8
Customs & Excise	3.5
Transport	3.3
DHSS	2.5
Scottish Office	2.5
Agriculture	2.4 -
Defence	2.0
Manpower Services Commission	1.2 *
Home Office	0

There has been a small offsetting increase in overtime working and casual staff in a few departments where that has proved essential, for example to clear backlogs of work or to deal with seasonal peaks. But we are well on course to achieve the 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ % reduction from the cash limit squeeze, and we may well get more.

I intend to draw public attention to our achievements in this respect when I announce the agreed results of our manpower review to Parliament in the first week of December.

I am sending a copy of this to the Chancellor and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

S.

28 NOV 1979





10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 December, 1979.

The Prime Minister was grateful for the Lord President's minute of 28 November, in which he reported the current situation on Civil Service staff numbers.

M. A. PATTISON

Jim Buckley, Esq.,
Lord President's Office.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in the bottom right corner of the page.