



*Prime Minister*

CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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*Sir Ian Bancroft G.C.B.*  
*Head of the Home Civil Service*

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T P Lankester Esq  
Private Secretary  
Office of the Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

31 July 1981

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*Dear Tim,*

INDUSTRIAL ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

Unions' Response to the Offer

The unions' consultation exercise ended yesterday. As expected, the IRSF was the only union with an overall majority against acceptance of the offer. Their executive agreed at a meeting of CCSU last night to go along with the majority decision to accept and return to normal working. Formal acceptance was conveyed in a letter of today's date from Mr Kendall to CSD.

Individual departments are now in the process of discussing the details of the return to work with their local trade union sides. Generally, staff will return to work early next week. The position is set out in more detail below by department. As usual, a table is attached showing numbers of staff on strike by department today.

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It is not yet known to what extent there may be pockets of unofficial action after the return to work. However, guidance is being issued to departments on the way in which such action should be handled if it occurs.

Individual Departments' position

DHSS

A meeting with the unions is being held later today. No delay in the return to work is expected.



T P Lankester Esq

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## EMPLOYMENT

A meeting with the unions is scheduled for Monday, and staff are expected to return to work from Tuesday.

SCPS and CPSA have issued guidance to staff not to cooperate with the reintroduction of the requirement for Unemployment Benefit claimants to sign on. This would clearly be in breach of the 'return to work' agreement and the matter is currently under discussion with the local trade union side.

## MOD

An agreement has already been reached for an orderly return to work from next week, and no difficulties are envisaged.

## WELSH OFFICE

The picket has been removed at Cathays Park. Management and unions were discussing details of the return to work earlier today.

## CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

A meeting is scheduled for this afternoon. SCPS members at Southend and Manchester are not expected to return before the middle of next week and it is thought that SCPS may attempt to frustrate the recovery generally. CPSA are likely to be more co-operative.

## INDUSTRY

A draft agreement with the unions on a return to work at Companies House is being discussed. No problems are expected.

## SCOTTISH COURTS ADMINISTRATION

Further discussions with the unions on a return to work will be needed, and this may not take place until later next week.

## ENVIRONMENT/TRANSPORT/MAFF

No difficulties are expected in securing a return to work next week.

## PGO

Normal working is expected to be resumed on Tuesday, following further detailed discussions on Monday.

Copies as before.

*Yours sincerely*

*Niran Williams*

*for:* J G COLMAN  
Private Secretary



SELECTIVE ACTION BY NON-INDUSTRIAL CIVIL SERVANTS

SUMMARY OF POSITION -34 JULY 1981

Department	Number on strike	Remarks
Customs & Excise	355	Strikes by computer, customs and other staff at Southend Computer Centre (308); Manchester Betting Duty Office (43); Glasgow Betting Duty Office (3); 1 VAT Office Staff.
Ministry of Defence	558	Strikes by computer and other staff at dockyards, RN stores depots, RN armaments depots, Clyde Submarine Base, Royal Ordnance Factories, Feltham and Taunton (Mapping), Bath.
Environment/Transport	85	EOs and Senior Data Processors at DVLC.
Dept. of Health and Social Security	473	230 staff on strike at Newcastle computer centre; 11 staff at North Fylde central Accounts Office; staff at Reading Computer Centre (58), Livingston Computer Centre (60), and Washington Computer Centre (100). Medicines Division DHSS HQ (3) Local office staff (11)
Inland Revenue	2466	Staff on strike at Shipley and Cumbernauld computer centres; staff at various Collection Offices. (472 TRDs)



Department	Number on strike	Remarks
Paymaster General's Office	43	Strike by 28 computer staff affecting pension payments; 12 in Finance Branch, disrupting Government banking transactions; 3 telephonists.
Property Services Agency	39	Strikes by maintenance engineers at RAF Brawdy, Pendine, Aberporth, St Athans, Trecwn, Cardiff DWO & Cumbernauld.
Depts. of Trade and Industry	163	Strike by staff who handle search facilities at Companies House, London and Cardiff; telephonists at Cardiff.
Scottish Courts Administration	235	Strike by staff at Edinburgh and Glasgow Sheriff Courts.
ECGD	5	Post room staff
MAFF	18	Staff at Guildford Computer Centre.
Employment	495	8 Computer staff at Reading and 7 staff in the Statistics Branch, Watford 48c UBO staff.
Ordnance Survey	1	1 Filmsetter Operator
Welsh Office	25	Mail sorting staff, paperkeepers and messengers at Cathays Park, CC in Finance Division, 1 Member of Staff at Aberystwyth
TOTAL	4961	