

From: Iain Sproat, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

12th July 1979

Dear Ian,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Scottish Conservative Committee, of which I am Chairman, to ask for your help in arranging a meeting with the Prime Minister regarding the dispersal of civil servants to Scotland. The point of this is as follows:

The Party in Scotland has been totally committed for a long time, through numerous public statements by Teddy Taylor as Shadow Secretary of State, to a substantial dispersal of civil servants to Glasgow and East Kilbride - 5,500 from the M.O.D., 1,000 from the O.D.M. Quite apart from the inherent benefits of this action, it would be absolutely ruinous for the credibility of the new Scottish Office if, within weeks of taking over, we renege on what everybody in Scotland regarded as a commitment. Furthermore, all the present M.P.s, plus George Younger and Teddy Taylor, strongly argued, at the time of the Devolution Referendum, that it would not require Independence, or a Scottish Assembly, to bring jobs and opportunities to Scotland under a Tory Government: we all said we were totally committed to the 6,500 civil service jobs without any such constitutional changes. Thus, having beaten and all but killed off the S.N.P., this one decision going wrong could light the Nationalist fire all over again. In short, this is now a political decision primarily, rather than one merely about jobs for the West of Scotland. I will not go into all the arguments now - although if you wanted me to, in advance of the delegation going to see the Prime Minister, I could do so - but would ask you to believe that the entire Committee attach paramount importance to this matter.

...../2



I.R.E. Gow, Esq., M.P.  
12th July 1979  
Page 2

---

I have already been in touch with  
the Prime Minister's Private Office in the usual way.

Yours ever,

I.R.E. Gow, Esq., M.P.