



PRIME MINISTER

## DISPERSAL

During the last Parliament we committed this Government to review "the whole of dispersal policy" under which 30,000 Civil Service posts are to be moved from London to various locations in Scotland, Wales and the English regions. (Hansard: January 15, 1979; Cols 1442-3).

2. I believe we ought to undertake a quick review and take early decisions. If not there will be large sums of public money wasted. The dispersal programme is well under way and substantial expenditure is already committed. Major building projects are at an advanced stage and some would be due to go to tender later this year or early next. The uncertainty which will remain during a review will affect Departments and their staff adversely as well as causing anxiety in those areas due to receive dispersed offices under present plans.

3. Therefore I believe we should aim to complete the review before the Parliamentary Summer Recess so as to ensure that any alterations flowing from it can be reflected in this year's Public Expenditure Survey exercise. With your agreement I will put proposals to colleagues at an early date on the scope of the review and its timing.

4. Copies of this minute go to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for the Environment and Sir John Hunt.

Prime Minister

Agree there should  
be a review of  
dispersal policy?

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23 May 1979