

Prime Minister
 Charles Sheehy
 DTC 7/11/80



PRIME MINISTER

CIVIL SERVICE MANPOWER REDUCTIONS: DEPARTMENTAL TARGETS

Now that Cabinet has agreed on firm departmental targets for the number of civil servants at 1 April 1984, I think it necessary to announce them. It is nearly 6 months since you announced the global target. You said then that Ministers in charge of Departments would be working out detailed plans. Parliament, and in particular the Treasury and Civil Service Committee, will now expect us to know where the savings are to come from. We shall avoid speculation, leaks and uncertainty if we make an early announcement.

If you agree, I propose that this should be by Written Answer towards the end of next week. I attach a draft. I have sought to find a form of words which leaves it to colleagues to decide the extent they wish to announce firm plans.

I would inform the Select Committee and the Civil Service Unions at the time of the announcement. I would let colleagues know when this would be. They would no doubt then wish to get on with informing staff and their representatives.

I am sending copies of this minute to Cabinet colleagues, including the Minister of Transport and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Agreed mb.

S.

SOAMES

7 November 1980

DRAFT PQ

To ask the Lord President of the Council what plans the Government has for reducing the size of the Civil Service.

DRAFT ANSWER

My Right Honourable Friend the Prime Minister announced on 13 May that the Government intended to reduce the size of the Civil Service to about 630,000 over the next four years. Circumstances are bound to change over the period ahead, and we are therefore aiming at an aggregate figure below 630,000 in order to allow a margin for contingencies. The Government has now settled manpower targets for individual departments for 1 April, 1984. These figures, and those of the staff in post on 1 April 1979 and 1 October 1980, are given below.

Each departmental Minister has his general plans which will be developed in detail over the period as circumstances evolve.

DEPARTMENT	STAFF IN POST AT 1 APRIL 1979	STAFF IN POST AT 1 OCTOBER 1980	TARGET STAFF IN POST AT 1 APRIL 1984
MAFF	13,956	13,406	11,550
Chancellor of the Exchequer's Departments	126,905	115,938	102,600
Defence	247,660	235,226	200,000
Education and Science	2,647	2,571	2,190
Employment Group	53,652	50,912	49,000
Energy	1,267	1,222	1,090
Environment and Ordnance Survey	56,039	49,360	41,435
FCO/ODA	12,078	11,605	11,090
Health and Social Security	98,369	97,917	87,700
Home Office	33,490	34,924	34,900
Industry	9,514	9,120	7,320
Lord Chancellor's Departments	16,518	16,370	16,006
Lord President's Departments	12,957	12,289	9,084
Northern Ireland Office	216	219	200
Scottish Office	11,119	10,911	10,000

DEPARTMENT	STAFF IN POST AT 1 APRIL 1979	STAFF IN POST AT 1 OCTOBER 1980	TARGET STAFF IN POST AT 1 APRIL 1984
Trade, Office of Fair Trading and Export Credits Guarantee Department	9,940	9,458	8,425
Transport	13,908	13,291	10,725
Welsh Office	2,607	2,388	2,195
Other Departments	9,516	9,948	9,476
<u>TOTALS</u> (rounded)	732,300	697,100	615,000