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*Primi Annotati*

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*MW*

10 July 1981

*Dear Tim,*

INDUSTRIAL ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

4786 staff are currently involved in selective industrial action. The unions' tactic of calling this off in some areas to concentrate resources elsewhere, linked to a desire to return to work by some groups, appears to be continuing. Action at the Scottish Office (part), Registers of Scotland, FCO Photoprinters has ended this week and some MOD staff in Scotland have returned to work. Agreement for a return to work of Passport Office staff has been made with the unions, but there is some reluctance on the part of staff to accept the unions' decision. Certain local Unemployment Benefit Office staff appear to be going against the earlier commitment by the unions concerned not to hit the unemployed, and some Scottish Office staff are threatening, against union advice, to take action. Further details of developments in these and other departments are set out below, and a table showing numbers on strike is attached.

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ACTION WITHIN DEPARTMENTS

EMPLOYMENT

A growing problem is resulting from the refusal by staff in local Unemployment Benefit Offices to accept delivery of blank Girocheques from the Watford Office, which is being picketed. Keighley and Kinning Park (Glasgow) offices have been closed by strike action following TRD warnings; and warnings are currently being given at Hackney and Washington where strike action is likely to be supported by a minority of staff. Other offices are expected to follow the pattern, including Leyton where first TRD warnings are likely later today. Claimants are being advised to seek help from DHSS in cases where UBOs are closed. Discussions are being held urgently between union officials from these areas and those at national level about the implications of pursuing this form of action. The overall view of the Department is that a majority of staff will stay at work, notwithstanding the union decision.

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## WELSH OFFICE/ECGD

A 24-hour picket of indefinite duration has been operating this week at the Cardiff complex which houses these two departments. Mail has been taken into and out of the premises by contractors but messengerial and sorting staff have refused to process it. TRD procedures against these staff are in progress, and it is considered likely that they will return to work at the final warning stage. Meanwhile senior managers have been performing their duties. One effect of the inevitable delays will be that weekly paid staff will not receive their Girocheques on time.

## DHSS

The number of underemployed staff at the Newcastle centre is increasing. The position is under urgent review by DHSS management.

## FCO/PASSPORTS

An agreement has been reached with the unions for a return to work of staff on strike at the various Passport Offices. If all goes according to plan this will be phased over the next 2 weeks. However staff in some areas are showing reluctance to comply.

## DOE(DVLC)

The unions have planned to black the administrative arrangements relating to the switch to 'X' registration. However management has contingency plans to cope with this.

## MOD

The number on strike has continued to decrease this week, with some staff at Culpport and the Clyde Submarine base returning to work. The trend is expected to continue. There are now 798 staff involved in selective action as compared with 845 last Friday.

## CAA

There has been no action by ATCOs this week and flights have not been affected.

*Yours ever,  
Jeremy*

JEREMY COLMAN  
Private Secretary



COLLECTIVE ACTION BY NON-INDUSTRIAL CIVIL SERVANTS

SUMMARY OF POSITION -10 JULY 1981

Department	Number on strike	Remarks
Customs & Excise	354	Strikes by computer, customs and other staff at Southend Computer Centre (308); Manchester Betting Duty Office (43); Glasgow Betting Duty Office (3)
Ministry of Defence	798	Strikes by computer and other staff at 4 dockyards, 4 RN stores depots, 2 RN armaments depots, Clyde Submarine Base, Royal Ordnance Factories, Feltham and Taunton (Mapping), Bath, Oil Fuel Depots.
Environment/Transport	85	EOs and Senior Data Processors at DVLC.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	264	Passport Examiners at the London, Liverpool, Peterborough, Newport and Glasgow Passport Offices; staff at Hayes Record Centre, Photoprinters (telegrams section).
Dept. of Health and Social Security	455	230 staff on strike at Newcastle computer centre; 10 staff at North Fylde central Accounts Office; staff at Reading Computer Centre (56), Livingston Computer Centre (56), and Washington Computer Centre (100). Medicines Division DHSS HQ (3).
Home Office		
Inland Revenue	2252	Staff on strike at Shipley and Cumbernauld computer centres; staff at various Collection Offices. (402 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	44	Strikes by maintenance engineers at RAF Brawdy, Pendine, Aberporth, Shoburyness, St Athans, Trecwn, Cardiff DWO, Cumbernauld and Carlisle.
Depts. of Trade and Industry	163	Strike by staff who handle search facilities at Companies House, London and Cardiff; telephonists at Cardiff.
Scottish Office	25	Staff at the Scottish Computer Centre and 1 CPSA member involved in organising industrial action.
Scottish Courts Administration	235	Strike by staff at Edinburgh and Glasgow Sheriff Courts.
CCGD	4	4 Post room staff
MAFF	18	Staff at Guildford Computer Centre.
Employment	45	<sup>8</sup> Computer staff at Reading and 7 staff in the Statistics Branch, Watford 30 UBO staff.
Ordnance Survey	1	1 Filmsetter Operator
TOTAL	4786	