

cc Mr Hoskyns
Mr Wolfson

PRIME MINISTER

CLEGG COMMISSION

We have corresponded about maintaining the membership of the Commission to enable it to complete its remaining references after the resignation of Professor Clegg and Mr Harry Urwin (TGWU) at the end of September. We have agreed that I might explore whether Professor John Wood would be willing to act as a caretaker Chairman until about the end of the year to complete the Commission's work, but wholly without any commitment to him pending the outcome of the teachers' arbitrations which he is to chair.

In making that suggestion, I believed that the remaining part-time members of the Commission (Mr Peter Gibson and Professor Joan Mitchell) would be willing to continue to serve. With this in mind, I advised against the appointment of Mr Parry Rogers (Plessey), who has accepted your invitation of a part-time appointment, because this might be viewed as a signal that the Commission had a future in something like its present form. We failed in persuading an able trade unionist to accept appointment to fill the other previous vacancy.

On reflection, however, Mr Peter Gibson has now decided that he too should resign at the end of September unless the Commission is strengthened by at least one further part-time appointment. Under the terms of his appointment he would give three months' notice at the end of this month. After much thought he has concluded that the Commission would just not be sufficiently manned with a new caretaker Chairman and only two part-time members to report on the outstanding references following Professor Clegg's departure.

Unless therefore a further part-time appointment is made, the Commission must effectively cease to exist at the end of September and this would become clear by the end of the month. The annex to this minute lists



the references which would then be uncompleted. We made all but one of these. I do not think we should just allow the Commission to end in default of a further appointment and therefore propose that Mr Parry Rogers should now be appointed. If we are not ready to announce our decision on the longer term future of the Commission, we can make clear that the appointment is to assist on current references and we have no proposals for further references. My own view is that the Commission needs to be wound up when its present references are completed.

I am copying this minute to Geoffrey Howe, Christopher Soames and Robert Armstrong who received the previous correspondence and to members of E Committee.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JP'.

J P

23 June 1980

STANDING COMMISSION ON PAY COMPARABILITY

References which will not have been completed before the end of September 1980

1. Ambulance Officers (3,000). Referred May 1979; recommendations, which are to be binding, to be implemented in stages from 1 August 1979 and 1 April 1980.
2. Scottish Local Authority Chief Officials (800). Referred September 1979; recommendations to provide a basis for negotiations, agreed staging of a settlement from 1 January 1980 and 1 April 1980.
3. New Towns Staff (8,000). Referred October 1979; recommendations to provide a basis for negotiations with implementation of a settlement from 1 July 1980.
4. University Teachers (37,000). Referred January 1980; recommendations to provide a basis for negotiations with implementation of a settlement agreed in stages from 1 April 1980 and 1 October 1980. Agreed that this reference can now be withdrawn.
5. University Clerical and Computer Staffs (17,000). Referred May 1980; recommendations to provide a basis for negotiations with agreed implementation of a settlement from 1 January 1980.

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