



*Original GTR*  
*Civil Service*

FILE  
cc Ian Gow  
Press Office  
CSD

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

9 July 1979

*Ian Gow*

You wrote to me on 25 June after seeing a deputation of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants from the Ordnance Survey Department who are in dispute with the Civil Service Department about the 1979 pay settlement for the professional and technical grades.

They are suggesting that the pay of the technical grades has previously been related to points which were on average about 15 per cent above the median of the comparable rates outside the Service. You requested a detailed note about the issue in the dispute and the view the Government takes on the matter.

I hope that the note, which I now attach, will help to explain the background to the dispute and enable you to reassure your constituents that there is no question of the Civil Service Department's discriminating against the Professional and Technology staff in determining their pay. The Government fully appreciates the contribution which they make to the community and is determined to ensure that their pay is settled in precisely the same way as that of other civil servants. If the Institution cannot accept the Civil Service Department's offer, the way is clear for them to refer the issue to the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal, whose findings the Government will accept.

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I am most anxious that the pay negotiations should be brought to a speedy and fair conclusion. The best way to achieve this is to refer the matter to arbitration and I very much hope the Institution will take this course as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Reginald Fisher

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Ken Weetch, Esq., MP.