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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 November 1980

Dear Jim

The Prime Minister has considered the Lord President's minute of 19 November about an announcement of the departmental targets for Civil Service manpower reductions which were agreed by Cabinet. She has also seen the Chancellor of the Exchequer's minute of 24 November, and has had an opportunity to discuss the issue with him.

As I told you on the telephone, the Prime Minister has concluded that it would be best to announce the broad targets set for each department, whilst making it clear that the detailed implications for each department will only be worked out over time. She is therefore content that the Lord President of the Council should arrange to give a Parliamentary Answer as in the draft enclosed with his minute.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of the Cabinet, including the Minister of Transport, and to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Mike Pattison

Jim Buckley, Esq.,
Lord President's Office.

[Handwritten mark]