



cc Press Office
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 December 1980

J Buckley Esq
Private Secretary to the Lord President
Old Admiralty Building
Whitehall
LONDON SW1

N/S MS 52 - CUC SPOKE

MJD
3/12/80

Dear Mr. Buckley

NON-DEPARTMENTAL PUBLIC BODIES: WRITTEN QUESTION AND ANSWER

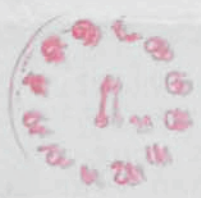
1. Thank you for copying to us your letter of 10 November to Nick Sanders. I have also seen your letter to Mike Pattison of 25 November. While we cannot rule out the possibility, we doubt whether a written answer along the lines suggested will revive the controversy over the reductions in the British Council's expenditure, provided the text and the press notice make clear that the cuts referred to are those already agreed and announced. Part of the cuts which gave rise to the controversy have in any case been restored, and the revised total of £38 million (a reduction of £8.6 million) has been accepted by the Board of the British Council. They therefore have no axe to grind in stirring up press interest. To ensure that this point is understood, we should like to add to the written answer, opposite the FCO entry the words 'as previously announced'.

2. It follows, therefore, that, if paragraph 5 of the press notice is to be retained, we should like the words 'announced in August' added after 'British Council'. We are assuming that all the figures quoted are, like the British Council's £8.6 million, at 1979 prices. There may well be some comment on the fact that the money saved on bodies other than the British Council is relatively small (some £2.4 million out of about £11 million) and it may even be suggested that we are trying to take credit for the British Council cuts twice over. However, since the British Council was included in the Pliatzky Report it seems right to include it also in the Parliamentary Answer.

3. I am copying this letter at your suggestion to Mike Pattison.

Yours sincerely
KJ Marles

Miss K J Marles
Assistant Private Secretary to
Mr Peter Blaker MP



21 DEC 1980



1. MR. SANDERS
2. PRIME MINISTER

Gov. MACH /
I suggest taking out the
(not very impressive) details
in square brackets

MS
Agree that words in
square brackets should
be deleted. not

Here is a revised version of the Answer on Non-Departmental Public Bodies. This avoids spelling out the fact that most of the new abolitions produce negligible financial savings. It still includes financial information in the cases where there is a significant saving, and therefore still includes information on the reduction in British Council expenditure.

You will probably want to take credit in those cases where there is a worthwhile saving. This presentation should give a better slant to the exercise.

Content that we should now arrange a Question for you to answer in this form next week?

MA

26 November 1980

DRAFT WRITTEN PQ AND ANSWER

QUESTION

To ask the Prime Minister if decisions have now been taken about the future of those bodies which were still under review when the Report on Non-Departmental Public Bodies (Cmnd 7797) was published in January 1980; and if she will make a statement.

ANSWER

The Prime Minister: In January this year I announced decisions which will lead to the abolition of over 240 non-departmental public bodies with estimated savings of £11.6 million in a full year.

Since then, further decisions have been taken which will lead to the winding up of another 28 executive bodies and 164 advisory and judicial bodies. Valuable financial savings will arise from these decisions and from reductions in the expenditure of other bodies which have been reviewed. These savings will accrue over a period of time and in some cases cannot yet be calculated, but they will reach over £11 million a year by 1983/4.

I am sure Hon Members will welcome these measures which bring to 436 the total number of public bodies to be wound up; the total savings will approach £23 million a year by 1983/4.

A number of reviews are still in progress, including those of the Nationalised Industries Consumer Councils and the Industrial Training Board system.

We shall keep all existing bodies under regular scrutiny. Those which continue to undertake valuable work and remain appropriate will be retained but we shall keep under close control the money which the Government spends on them. Whenever bodies are no longer needed they will be wound up.

There are always pressures for the creation of new bodies. We shall be robust in resisting them. But we shall approve proposals for new bodies if we can be convinced that the function is essential and that a non-departmental body is the most appropriate way to do the job - as in the case of the Urban Development Corporations and other bodies we have set up.

Details of the decisions are as follows:

* Taking these bodies together, there will be

Decision

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research
Concil for Educational Technology

Grant to be reduced by about £36,000 pa by 1983/4
Reduction in grant of about £222,000 by 1982/3

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT GROUP

Disablement Advisory Committees

Industrial Relations Training Resource Centre

Numbers to be reduced from 220 to 88, with saving of about £150,000 pa.
To be abolished; saving of £60-100,000 pa.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Advisory Committee on Fixed Offshore Installations
Advisory Council on Energy Conservation

Severn Barrage Committee

Abolished in March; [saving of about £6,000 pa]
Reconstituted with reduced membership; [saving of about £1,000 pa]
To be abolished in 1981; [saving of about £5,000 pa]

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

New Town Development Corporations (11)

Commission for New Towns

New Towns Staff Commission

Advisory Panel on Institutional Finance in New Towns

Target dates decided)
for abolition of first and) Substantial
second generation) savings in
corporations.) the amount
To be abolished;) (currently
legislation required) about
£640,000 pa)
Abolition associated with) spent on
winding up of Development) departmental
Corporations) supervision
To be abolished by end) etc
of 1980)

Housing Corporation

Staff reductions and administrative streamlining; savings of about £1.0m

Housing Services Advisory Group

Abolished. Saving of about £26,000 pa.

National Consultative Council for the Building and Civil Engineering Industries

Decision

Abolished in April; saving of £60-80,000 pa

FOREIGN OFFICE

British Council

Reduction in expenditure, phased over 4 years to reach £8.6m pa by 1983/4

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Advisory Committee on Child Psychotherapists (Grading and Appointments))

Advisory Committee on Top Grade Clinical Psychologists Posts)

To be abolished after current negotiations; saving of about £12,000 pa.

Advisory Committee on Top Grade Scientist posts)

Food Hygiene Advisory Council

To be abolished

General Nursing Council (E&W))

Central Midwives Board (E&W))

Joint Board for Clinical Nursing Studies)

Panel of Assessors for District Nurse Training)

To be abolished after transitional period. New structure involves Central Council and two territorial boards.

Council for the Education and Training of Health Visitors)

National Radiological Protection Board Advisory Committee

To be abolished

HOME OFFICE

Central Committee on Common Police Services

Fewer meetings, reduced membership; [saving of about £2,000 pa.]

Licensing Planning Committees (6)

4 to be abolished

New Town Licensed Premises Committees (17)

11 to be abolished by 1985 along with associated Development Corporations.

Decision

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

Design Council

Staff reductions. Aim of increased income from advisory etc services. Substantial savings.

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE AND NI DEPARTMENTS

Advisory Committee for Agricultural Training(NI)

Abolished

Advisory Committee on Health Education (NI)

Abolished

Extra Statutory Compensation Tribunal

To be abolished

Hotel Grants Advisory Committee (NI)

To be abolished; legislation required

Northern Ireland Agricultural Trust

To be abolished; saving of about £400,000.

Northern Ireland Council for Nurses and Midwives

To be abolished after transitional period; replaced by new NI board

NI Electricity Consumers Council)

NI Consumer Council)

NI Transport Users' Committee)

To be amalgamated; legislation required.

NI Training Council)

Youth Careers Guidance Committee)

Youth Opportunities Programme)

Monitoring Committee)

To be amalgamated; legislation required. [Saving of about £2000 pa.]

Nature Reserves Committee)

Wild Birds Advisory Committee)

To be amalgamated; legislation required.

NI Training School Management Boards (4)

Government intends that Boards' present functions will be discharged by one board.

SCOTTISH OFFICE

Scottish Food Hygiene Council

To be abolished

General Nursing Council for Scotland)

Central Midwives Board (Scotland))

To be abolished after transitional period. Replaced by new Scottish Board.

Governing Bodies of Colleges of Education (10)

Closure of 2 colleges; restructuring of another. Significant savings.

Decision

Scottish Horticultural Research Institute)	
Scottish Society for Research in Plant)	
Breeding)	To be amalgamated

TREASURY

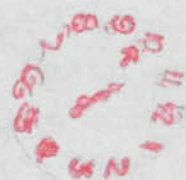
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	Staff reductions and other savings. Savings of over £200,000 pa by 1983/84.
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DRAFT PRESS NOTICE

MORE PUBLIC BODIES TO BE WOUND UP

FURTHER SAVINGS OVER £11 MILLION A YEAR

1. The Prime Minister today announced that a further 192 non-departmental public bodies are to be abolished. Estimated savings of over £11 million a year by 1983/4 are expected as a result of these decisions, together with other measures being taken to reduce the expenditure of bodies that will be retained.
2. These decisions, coupled with those already announced in January this year, bring the total number of bodies to be wound up as a result of the Government's review to 436; savings will approach £23 million by 1983/4.
3. Of the 192 further bodies to be abolished, 28 have executive type functions and 164 are advisory and judicial bodies, says today's announcement, which was made by the Prime Minister in a Written Answer to a Parliamentary Question from MP.
4. The full text of the Prime Minister's statement is attached.
- [5. The decisions announced today include a firm programme for 11 New Town Development Corporations in England to be wound up by 1985; savings in the expenditure of the British Council reaching £8.6 million per annum by 1983/4; and a reduction in the number of Disablement Advisory Committees from 220 to 88.]
6. In her statement, the Prime Minister said that a number of reviews were still in progress, including those of the Nationalised Industries Consumer Councils and the Industrial Training Board system. All existing public bodies are to be kept under regular review, and Government expenditure on them will remain under close control. Those which are no longer needed will be wound up.
7. The Prime Minister also said that pressures for the creation of new bodies would be resisted robustly. Proposals for new bodies will, however, be approved if the function is essential and a non-departmental body is the best way to do the job.



26 NOV 1986



*Miss Lutke
Press Office*

Civil Service Department
Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ
01-273 4400

From the Private Secretary

25 November 1980

Mike Pattison Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Mike,

NON-DEPARTMENTAL PUBLIC BODIES

... Thank you for your letter of 13 November about the draft
Written Answer on non-departmental public bodies. Revised
drafts of the Answer and of the Press Notice are attached.
You will see that paragraph 5 of the Press Notice remains
in square brackets because the Prime Minister might think
it unnecessary to invite attention to the fact that the
main financial savings comes from the cut in the British
Council's expenditure.

I should be grateful if you would give me as much notice
as possible about the date on which the PQ is likely to be
announced so that we can warn other departments to prepare
themselves for enquiries from the Press.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Buckley.

J BUCKLEY

vb

~~BF 27.11.80~~

13 November 1980

As we told you this afternoon, the Prime Minister decided that she was not happy with the proposed Written Answer on non-departmental public bodies.

She feels that the "saving" column might well be greeted with derision, as so many of the abolitions have negligible financial effect.

I should be grateful if you could consider an alternative form for the Answer. We will, of course, need to do what we can to be consistent with the statement made at the time of publication of the Pliatzky Report.

MAP

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

JS

1.
PRIME MINISTER

QUANGOS

It will be helpful for you to give a Written Answer on the mopping up exercise, following your January announcement of the decisions arising immediately from the Pliatzky Report.

- attached to LPC to NTS
The attached draft is suggested by the Lord President. There are two outstanding points. The present totals include Michael Heseltine's Water Space/^{Amenity}Commission. Legislative constraints may now prevent its abolition before 1981/82. The Chairman has told him that too long a gap between announcement of intention and actual abolition would make it impossible to carry on. Mr. Heseltine argues that some bad feeling could be avoided by leaving it out of this announcement. This would reduce your total number of abolished executive bodies to 28. Are you content to exclude it? Yes

Secondly, of the £11m savings from the new decisions and other reviews, some £8.6m comes from reduced British Council expenditure. This announcement has already been made by Foreign Office Ministers. Its inclusion may revive controversy, but seems unavoidable if your Answer is to be informative. Lord Soames asked that this point should be drawn to your attention.

Agree to include the reference to the Council?

Subject to your decision on the two points above, content that we should arrange for you to Answer as in the draft, this week?

MP

*I think it's a mistake to publish in this detail
no*

11 November 1980



Civil Service Department
Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ
01-273 4400

From the Private Secretary

10 November 1980

Nick Sanders Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Nick,

NON-DEPARTMENTAL PUBLIC BODIES

On 3 October the Lord President minuted the Prime Minister about the "mopping up" exercise following the Pliatzky Report. He enclosed a draft question and answer which was copied to Cabinet colleagues together with the mopping up report itself. Your letter of 6 October said that the Prime Minister would announce the result by Answer to a Written Question, and that she would give further consideration to the draft Answer when the House returned and in the light of any developments. I thought you might find it helpful to have revised drafts of the Question and Answer (attached).

2. Over the last few weeks there has been some correspondence which affects the draft Answer. The Prime Minister has agreed to the retention of the Computer Board. Godfrey Robson wrote to you on 14 October about the professional nursing bodies in Scotland. And departments have let us have one or two detailed points directly.

3. Mike Pattison also wrote to me on 30 October about 2 Quangos. The decision on the Institute of Development Studies was announced on 30 September and the decision on the Computer Board will be announced very shortly. We have asked DES to let you know direct about the exact timing of the latter.

4. As you will know from your copy of the letter of 30 October from the Secretary of State for the Environment to the Lord President, Mr Heseltine has asked that the Advisory Committee on the Protection of Birds in England and Wales and the Scientific Authority for Animals should not be included on the list. They have therefore been deleted and the overall number of abolitions drops to 193. He also expressed a preference that the Water Space Amenity Commission should be omitted. The

detail of the draft Answer still includes the reference to the Commission but this can be retained or omitted according to whether the Prime Minister shares the Secretary of State's preference. If it is omitted the number of executive bodies abolished will drop to 28, the mopping up total will be reduced to 192 and the grand total to 436.

5. You will see that £8.6m of the £11m savings is from the decision to reduce British Council expenditure. Responsibility for this rests, of course, with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary. The decision has already been announced, but a further reference to it in the Prime Minister's Answer may revive the controversy. Although there does not seem to be any real alternative to including these details in the Parliamentary Answer, the Lord President has asked me to draw this point to the Prime Minister's attention. Paragraph 5 of the Press Notice which refers to the British Council could also be deleted if the Prime Minister wished.

6. The revised draft Answer incorporates the various amendments we have received. Apart from the changes described above and some shall drafting amendments, there are two other changes worth noting:

a. the fourth paragraph of the Answer now refers to "the Industrial Training Board system" rather than "Industrial Training Boards". The point here is that, although the overall system of training support has been under review for some time, the review of individual Boards has yet to begin.

b. A number of departments have suggested the deletion of the words "I am announcing today" from the last line of the Answer because this implies that the individual decisions have not previously been announced. In fact some of them have already been announced and even implemented.

... 7. I also attach a draft Press Notice. It would be issued by the CSD Press Office. This follows what was done for the Pliatzky Report. Press questions about individual bodies will, as then, be directed to the departments concerned.

8. Copies of this go to the Private Secretaries of Cabinet Members including the Minister of Transport, and to David Wright in Sir Robert Armstrong's Office.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Buckley.

DRAFT WRITTEN PQ AND ANSWER

QUESTION

To ask the Prime Minister if decisions have now been taken about the future of those bodies which were still under review when the Report on Non-Departmental Public Bodies (Cmnd 7797) was published in January 1980; and if she will make a statement.

ANSWER

The Prime Minister: In January this year I announced decisions which will lead to the abolition of over 240 non-departmental public bodies with estimated savings of £11.6 million in a full year.

Decisions have now been taken which will lead to the winding up of another ~~20~~²⁸ executive bodies and 164 advisory and judicial bodies. Valuable financial savings will arise from these decisions and from reductions in the expenditure of other bodies which have been reviewed. These savings will accrue over a period of time and in some cases cannot yet be calculated, but they will reach over £11 million a year by 1983/4.

I am sure Hon Members will welcome these measures which bring to 436 the total number of public bodies to be wound up; savings will approach £23 million a year by 1983/4.

A number of reviews are still in progress including those of the Nationalised Industries Consumer Councils, and the Industrial Training Board system. We shall keep all existing bodies under regular scrutiny. Those which continue to undertake valuable work and remain appropriate will be retained but we shall keep under close control the money which the Government spends on them. Whenever bodies are no longer needed they will be wound up.

There are always pressures for the creation of new bodies. We shall be robust in resisting them. But we shall approve proposals for new bodies if we can be convinced that the function is essential and that a non-departmental body is the most appropriate way to do the job - as in the case of the Urban Development Corporations and other bodies we have set up.

Details of the decisions are as follows:

	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Saving</u>
National Consultative Council for the Building and Civil Engineering Industries	Abolished in April	£60-80,000
<u>Foreign Office</u>		
British Council	Reduction in expenditure	Phased over 4 years to reach £8.6m. p.a. by 1983/4
<u>Department of Health and Social Security</u>		
Advisory Committee on Child Psychotherapists (Grading and Appointments)	To be abolished after current negotiations	c £12,000 p.a.
Advisory Committee on Top Grade Clinical Psychologists Posts		
Advisory Committee on Top Grade Scientist Posts		
Food Hygiene Advisory Council	To be abolished	Negligible
General Nursing Council (E&W)	To be abolished after transitional period. New structure involves Central Council and two territorial boards	Some additional transitional costs. Final expenditure effects neutral.
Central Midwives Board (E&W)		
Joint Board for Clinical Nursing Studies		
Council for the Education and Training of Health Visitors		
Panel of Assessors for District Nurse Training		
National Radiological Protection Board Advisory Committee	To be abolished	Negligible
<u>Home Office</u>		
Central Committee on Common Police Services	Fewer meetings, reduced membership	c £2,000 p.a.
Licensing Planning Committees (6)	4 to be abolished	-
New Town Licensed Premises Committees (17)	11 to be abolished by 1985 along with associated Development Corporations	-

DecisionSavingDepartment of Industry

Design Council

Staff reductions. Substantial.
Aim of increased Grant-in-aid
income from advisory currently
etc services £3.4m.

English Industrial Estates Corporation

New responsibilities, c£27,000 in
especially in raising 1981/82
private finance for
industrial invest-
ment in Assisted
Areas

Northern Ireland Office and NI DepartmentsAdvisory Committee for Agricultural
Training (NI)

Abolished

Negligible

Advisory Committee on Health Education (NI)

Abolished

Negligible

Extra Statutory Compensation Tribunal

To be abolished

Negligible

Hotel Grants Advisory Committee (NI)

To be abolished;
legislation
required

Negligible

Northern Ireland Agricultural Trust

To be abolished

c£400,000

Northern Ireland Council for Nurses
and MidwivesTo be abolished
after transitional
period; replaced by
new NI boardSome trans-
itional costs.
Final expend-
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neutral.

NI Electricity Consumers Council)

NI Consumer Council)

NI Transport Users' Committee)

To be amalgamated;
legislation
required

Not yet known.

NI Training Council)

Youth Careers Guidance Committee)

Youth Opportunities Programme
Monitoring Committee)To be amalgamated; c£2,000 pa
legislation required

Nature Reserves Committee)

Wild Birds Advisory Committee)

To be amalgamated; Negligible
legislation
required

NI Training School Management Boards (4)

Government intends
that Boards' present
functions will be
discharged by one
board.Not yet
known

	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Saving</u>
<u>Scottish Office</u>		
Scottish Food Hygiene Council	To be abolished	Negligible
General Nursing Council for Scotland	To be abolished after transitional period. Replaced by new Scottish Board	Some transitional costs. Final expenditure effects neutral
Central Midwives Board (Scotland)		
Governing Bodies of Colleges of Education (10)	Closure of 2 colleges; restructuring of another	Significant. Not yet quantified.
Scottish Horticultural Research Institute	To be amalgamated	Negligible
Scottish Society for Research in Plant Breeding		
<u>Treasury</u>		
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	Staff reductions and other savings	Upwards of £200,000 pa by 1983/4

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2. These decisions, coupled with the reductions already announced in January this year, bring the total number of bodies to be wound up as a result of the Government's review to 436; savings will approach £23 million by 1983/4.

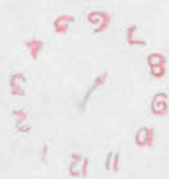
3. Of the 192 further bodies to be abolished, 28 have executive type functions and 164 are advisory and judicial bodies, says today's announcement, which was made by the Prime Minister in a Written Answer to a Parliamentary Question from MP.

4. The full text of the Prime Minister's statement is attached.

[5. The decisions announced today include a firm programme for 11 New Town Development Corporations in England to be wound up by 1985; savings in the expenditure of the British Council reaching £8.6 million per annum by 1983/4; and a reduction in the number of Disablement Advisory Committees from 220 to 88.]

6. In her statement, the Prime Minister said that a number of reviews were still in progress, including those of the Nationalised Industries Consumer Councils and the Industrial Training Board system. All existing public bodies are to be kept under regular review and Government expenditure on them will remain under close control. Those which are no longer needed will be wound up.

7. The Prime Minister also said that pressures for the creation of new bodies would be resisted robustly. Proposals for new bodies will, however, be approved if the function is essential and a non-departmental body is the best way to do the job.



170 NOV 1980



Gov Mach
 20/10/80
 MAP 30/10/80?

✓ MJD

2 MARSHAM STREET
 LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref:

Your ref:

30 OCT 80

Dear Chris, John

You wrote to the Prime Minister on 3 October proposing a Question and Answer in which the Prime Minister intends to announce the results of the review following the Pliatzky Report.

Under my Department, I note that the answer states that the functions of the Advisory Committee on the Protection of Birds in England and Wales and the Scientific Authority for Animals are to be taken over by the Nature Conservancy Council.

Whilst it is true that I have every wish to make these changes, the matter has only been discussed on a confidential basis with the Nature Conservancy Council. Furthermore I have yet to agree with George Younger that arrangements will be satisfactory to him in relation to the Advisory Committee for the Protection of Birds in Scotland and the future of the 2 Birds Committees is closely bound together. I note that the ACPB for Scotland has not been mentioned in the answer at all.

The future operations under the NCC are very dependent on retaining the goodwill of the present members of the SAA and ACPB's and to date they are totally unaware of the proposals. Whilst I have every intention of bringing matters to a speedy conclusion, I am unable to guarantee to do so before the Question and Answer is made.

I would also prefer the Water Space Amenity Commission to be omitted. I had hoped to be able to announce that WSAC is to be abolished in the 1980/81 Session but regrettably because of legislative constraints that is now unlikely before 1981/82. The chairman has told us that too long a gap between the announcement of the intention and actual abolition would make it impossible to carry on. An announcement now would therefore cause some bad feeling which temporary silence would avoid.

In the circumstances I hope you will agree with me that it would be better to omit mention of these bodies from the reply at this stage rather than run the risk of unnecessarily complicating the negotiations.

This will not affect the financial parts of the answer but will reduce the number of bodies affected by 3.

I am sending copies to the Prime Minister and other Cabinet colleagues, Norman Fowler, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Ian Bancroft.

yours
MH

MICHAEL HESELTINE