

From **SIR HORACE CUTLER, O.B.E.**
LEADER OF THE GREATER LONDON COUNCIL
THE COUNTY HALL, SE1 7PB
Telephone 01-633 3304/2184

6 January 1981

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, SW1

to Margaret,

CIVIL SERVICE DISPERSAL - M.O.D. MOVE TO GLASGOW

You will recall the help you gave us when we raised the issue of civil service dispersal immediately after the General Election. I have recently been approached once more by the Institution of Professional Civil Servants (who have been in touch with Sir Derek Rayner, too) about the proposed relocation of 1,400 M.O.D. employees.

It is clear from what I am told that the move, which is being considered by the Committee for Scottish Affairs, will be inordinately costly and will lead to inefficient and uneconomic working. It will also damage London without helping Glasgow much.

Given current economic circumstances - and particularly the expenditure pressures on M.O.D. - it seems to me that all dispersal proposals, this one included, could usefully be shelved. Would it be possible to have the entire remaining policy looked at, and put into abeyance meanwhile? I know that one review has taken place and action taken, for which we are very grateful, but it would be advantageous to call a complete halt.

As a matter of courtesy I am copying this letter to John Nott and Barney Hayhoe in their new ministerial capacities.

Yours with best wishes Jan 1981

Horace.