



Civil Service cc HQ
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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 January 1981

Dear Horace,

Thank you for your letter of 6 January about the dispersal of 1400 Ministry of Defence posts from London to Glasgow.

The revised dispersal programme which was announced in both Houses on 26 July 1979 was the outcome of a thorough review of the programme which we inherited from our predecessors. It represented the minimum we considered acceptable, balancing considerations of regional policy and Civil Service efficiency against the overriding need for economy in public expenditure. As was then explained, the moves to Glasgow and Merseyside were allowed to continue on a reduced scale in order to meet the particular pressing needs of both areas. Their needs remain pressing, and the number of white collar jobs involved is insignificant compared with the total amount of such employment available in London. You may have seen the report of the Select Committee on Scottish Affairs, setting out its strong support for the planned dispersal to be maintained and if possible speeded up.

/I am afraid

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I am afraid I could not entertain your suggestion of reopening the remaining dispersal package. As I reaffirmed in the House last May, the Government remains committed to the plans, numbers and destinations already announced.

Yours
Raymond

Sir Horace Cutler, O.B.E.