

Civil Service
LHM

cc Press Office
Mr Gow



Civ Service

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Prime Minister 2

PRIME MINISTER

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Civil Service numbers
have fallen by about
5000 in each quarter
of 1981 so far.

LHM
29/10

CIVIL SERVICE NUMBERS

Departmental returns of staff in post at 1 October show a total of 679,800. This means there has been a reduction of 4,600 since July 1981. Of these reductions, 2,600 are non-industrials and 2,000 are industrials. This brings the total reductions since we took office to 52,500 (just over 7%).

The main areas of reduction in the last quarter are Defence (2,000); the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Departments (1,400); and Environment and Transport (1,200). There is an offsetting increase of about 1,700. Most of these are in the Department of Employment, where it has again been necessary to recruit extra staff in the Unemployment Benefit Service.

This is good progress. But we must keep up the pressure. I have asked my officials to examine departments' proposals for the 1982-83 Estimates very critically. In this way I intend to confirm a rundown pattern that will keep us firmly on course for achieving our target of 630,000 by April 1984.

The October figures are being announced in Written Answers in both Houses.

Copies go to Cabinet colleagues and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Baroness Young

BARONESS YOUNG

29 October 1981

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