



Prime Minister
Agree this
arranged Q+A?

Ref. A07987

MR PATTISON

Yes not

MPD 4/4

Mr Whitmore's minute to Sir Robert Armstrong of 20 January 1982 confirmed the Prime Minister's approval to the transfer of the Government Hospitality Fund from the MPO to the FCO with effect from 1 April 1982.

We ought to inform the House of this transfer of responsibilities (which does not require a Transfer of Functions order), and I attach a draft Parliamentary Question, and answer and a background note, for this purpose. No doubt you will arrange for the question to be put down.

D J WRIGHT

2nd April 1982

Teresa

To process, M.

MPD 5/4



DRAFT PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION AND ANSWER (WRITTEN)

Question: To ask the Prime Minister whether she will make a statement about the Departmental responsibility for the Government Hospitality Fund.

DRAFT ANSWER

Responsibility for this Fund passed from the Minister for the Civil Service to my Right Honourable and Noble Friend the ^{new} Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary on 1 April 1982. The Fund will continue to arrange hospitality for distinguished overseas visitors invited to this country as official guests of the Government.



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BACKGROUND NOTE

Government Hospitality Fund -
Transfer of Departmental Responsibility

The Fund used to be administered by the Civil Service Department; responsibility for it passed to the Management and Personnel Office when the Civil Service Department was disbanded.

By common agreement the tasks of the Government Hospitality Fund are totally unrelated to the main thrust of the Management and Personnel Office's other functions. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is the Fund's most frequent customer and already has a large measure of involvement in the arrangements for visitors from overseas. With the agreement of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Prime Minister approved the transfer of the Fund to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Whitmore's minute of 20 January 1982 to Sir Robert Armstrong refers).

Wednesday 7 April 1982

(Answered by the Prime Minister on Wednesday 7 April 1982)

UNSTARRED Mr Cyril D Townsend:

NO. 165 To ask the Prime Minister, whether she will make a statement about the Departmental responsibility for the Government Hospitality Fund.

Responsibility for this Fund passed from the Minister for the Civil Service to my Right Honourable and Noble Friend the then Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary on 1 April 1982. The Fund will continue to arrange hospitality for distinguished overseas visitors invited to this country as official guests of the Government.