

copy on PM, Trifs to  
Regions,  
pt 2.

SIR LEO PLIATZKY

The Prime Minister has seen your minute to me of 1 November, about the Manpower Services Commission, with which you enclosed material on other non-Departmental bodies responsible to the Department of Employment.

She is grateful for this report, and especially for the separate note about MSC. She will find these of great value in preparation for her proposed visit to the Department of Employment later this month, when she will wish to pursue the policy issues which arise from your study.

The Prime Minister proposes to have a small internal briefing meeting shortly before she visits the Department of Employment. This will be in the week beginning 19 November, and she hopes that you will be able to attend. I will ask Caroline Stephens here to get in touch with you when the timing has been settled.

MAP

5 November 1979

FROM SIR LEO PLIATZKY

CONFIDENTIAL

✓ MAP

MR PATTISON

MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION

1. In paragraph 4 of my minute of 1 November I quoted figures of savings expected from a reduction in the number of the MSC's District Manpower Committees and Disablement Advisory Committees. These figures had been provided by the Department of Employment.
2. I today received another document from the Department, tucked away in which was a different and very much smaller figure of savings from these measures. I have queried this discrepancy, but have not yet had a satisfactory reconciliation. I will let you know the Department's eventual estimate in due course.
3. I am sending copies of this to Sir Ian Bancroft and Sir Derek Rayner.

LONDON

L.P.

LEO PLIATZKY

5 November 1979

CONFIDENTIAL



F-6 NOV 1979

11 12 1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9 10

NO REVENUE

11

LONDON

FROM SIR LEO PLIATZKY

*Gov Machinery*

*Noted on  
original*

*re MAP 26/x1*

MR PATTISON

MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION

1. I have already let you know that I found a discrepancy in the Department of Employment's estimate of savings from reducing the number of the MSC's advisory committees, and I have now had a revised estimate from them. Could you therefore amend the second sentence of paragraph 14 of my minute of 1 November to read "This should save an estimated £40,000 a year".
2. The estimate of a further £80,000 a year at a later stage still stands.

*L.P.*

LEO PLIATZKY

19 November 1979



Director General  
S. Redman, C.B.

# The Timber Trade Federation

Clareville House, Whitcomb Street, London WC2H 7DL

Telephone: 01-839 1891

Telegrams: Yukaytimba, London WC2

28th September 1979

KU

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Dear Clive,

As promised, I enclose a copy of my letter  
to Leo Pliatzky about the Manpower Services Commission.

Yours sincerely,

Sydney Redman

C.A. Whitmore, Esq.,  
Principal Private Secretary  
to the Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

29th August, 1979.

Dear Sir Leo,

I am glad to see from reports in yesterday's Press that you have been appointed to advise the Government on the disbandment of Quangos. If, as I assume, the Manpower Services Commission will be one of the bodies which will fall within your purview, may I suggest that that organisation's vast regional network merits early attention?

This mushroom growth is outlined with depressing clarity in the enclosed diagram taken from the Commission's Annual Report for 1978/79, which also reveals that the total staff employed by the Commission at 31st March, 1979 was 25,332, an increase of 813 during the year. It is difficult to believe that some rationalisation or streamlining of these bodies is not possible with substantial staff and other administrative savings without prejudicing essential services. For example is it really necessary for the Special Programmes Division and for the Employment Services Division to have separate sets of Area Offices or for the Employment Services Division and the Training Services Division to have separate sets of District Offices? There is reason to believe that some of the sub-organisations themselves, e.g. the Training Boards, are embarrassed by the weight of the Commission's structure and by the duplication and extra work resulting from a multiplicity of bodies with a minimal knowledge of industry's requirements.

In conclusion may I send you our best wishes in tackling this and the many similar bodies that have emerged in recent years in the twilight area outside the traditional Whitehall departments and outside the traditional Whitehall controls.

Yours sincerely,

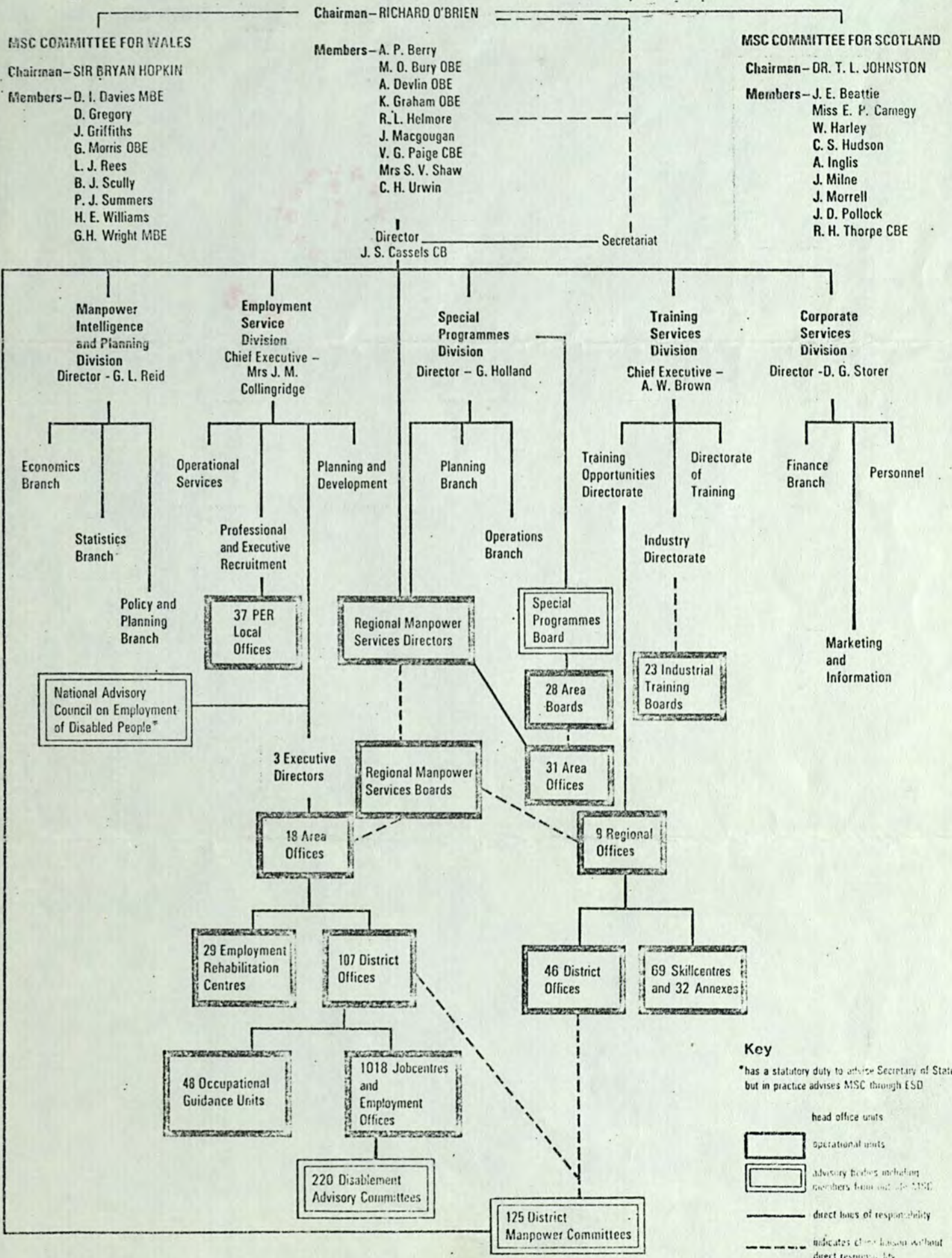
S. Redman

Sir Leo Pliatzky, KCB,  
Permanent Secretary,  
Department of Trade,  
1 Victoria Street,  
London SW1H 0ET.

Enc.

# Manpower Services Commission

Headquarters and regional organisation.



29 SEP

