



1. de Bernard Hogan
Prime Minister.
Content with the draft
Question and Answer as amended?

P.0490

Yes

Agree that the Question should
be answered on 11 June?

MR LANKESTER

Content that Mr Hanson's
name should be made public,
as proposed in paragraph 5 below?

cc: Mr Moore
Mr Wright
Mr Courtney
Mr Stevens

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Do not like
announcing Cabinet office
responsibilities now.

Your minute of 21 May, in response to Sir Robert Armstrong's of 18 May (A04932), recorded the Prime Minister's approval to the list of external advisers on information technology suggested by Mr Baker and her agreement that the appointment of the Panel and the formation of the Cabinet Office IT Secretariat should be announced by means of a written Parliamentary Question. It also invited Sir Robert to consider with Mr Baker the appointment of an additional adviser from one of the three major electronics companies.

2. Sir Robert has been in touch with Mr Baker on the latter point. Mr Baker is satisfied that current contacts with GEC, STC and Plessey are quite adequate for their views to be well understood by Government and he sees considerable difficulty in appointing a single representative from them. His conclusion, which seems sensible, is that the list of advisers should not be further extended.

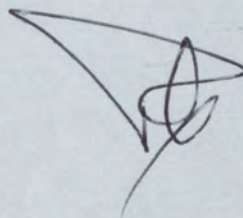
3. All the advisers have now accepted the Prime Minister's invitations to serve and in Sir Robert's absence I attach a draft PQ and Answer announcing their appointment and the formation of the Cabinet Office Information Technology Secretariat. The Answer - which has been cleared with Mr Baker - emphasises the role of the advisers in providing market-orientated advice to Government as a whole, not just the Department of Industry. The IT Secretariat is given a similarly broad span of responsibility.

4. The first meeting of the Advisory Panel has been arranged for the afternoon of Thursday, 11 June and, if the Prime Minister is content, it

would be appropriate to make the announcement on that day.

5. There is one other point I should mention relating to the announcement of the setting up of the IT Secretariat in the Cabinet Office. The fact of the Secretariat's establishment is recorded in the draft PQ Answer. We will need to go a little further than this, eg by announcing that Mr Brian Unwin will head the group so as to establish his locus with industry and commerce. I doubt however that we should go further (eg by announcing the names of other members of the IT Secretariat) because, while harmless in itself, the more we announce the allocation of specific duties in the Cabinet Office, the more we expose those members of our staff whose duties cannot be revealed. A simple press notice should serve here and its terms can be cleared in the normal way. It could issue on the same day as the PQ is answered.

It is to try to distance the IT Secretariat a little from the ordinary Secretariat of the Cabinet Office. I have suggested a change to the end of paragraph 2 of the draft Answer below.



P Le CHEMINANT

Cabinet Office

5 June 1981

DRAFT PQ

To ask the Prime Minister, following the designation of 1982 as Information Technology Year, what steps she is taking to ensure that Government policies on information technology take fully into account the needs of private sector suppliers and users of the relevant products and services and to stimulate the application of information technology within Government.

ANSWER

The Government fully recognise the importance of information technology (IT) ^{for the} [and] commercial success of the UK and the central role that Government must play in promoting its development and application in both the public and private sectors. Government policies are already directed towards encouraging markets for IT products and services that will stimulate new, profitable business opportunities; and the Government see the effective application of IT as a powerful tool in raising both the efficiency and quality of public sector services.

2. In order to ensure that Government policies and actions are securely based on a close appreciation of market needs and opportunities I am appointing a panel of IT advisers who will be available to advise me and my colleagues on all aspects of IT. The advisers are:

Mr M J Aldrich	Managing Director	Rediffusion Computers Ltd
Mr I H Cohen	Managing Director	Mullard Ltd
Mr C A Davies	Managing Director	Information Technology Ltd

Dr D F Hartley Director

Cambridge University Computing
Services

Mr B Mills Chairman

CMG (Computer Management Group) Ltd

Mr C N Read Director

Inter-Bank Research Organisation

In addition, I have established a small ^{team} [Secretariat] within the Cabinet Office, ^{made up of both} [staffed by a mixed team of] permanent officials and personnel on secondment from the private sector. This unit will be a principal link between the advisers and Departments, will help to promote [and monitor] the use of IT within Government, and will seek to ensure the overall coherence of Government policies towards IT, particularly in so far as they span the responsibilities of more than one Department.

3. These new arrangements will strengthen and broaden the many existing contacts between my right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Industry and the Minister of State for Industry and ^{Information Technology on the one hand} IT ^{on the other} [and private commerce and industry] and will reinforce the initiatives already taken by them and their officials.



File AH
cc Bernard
Ingham

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

MR Le CHEMINANT

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Prime Minister has seen your minute PO490 of 5 June 1981. She is content with the draft Question and Answer subject to the following changes:-

- i) She assumes that the opening sentence of the first paragraph should read something like:-

"The Government fully recognise the importance of information technology (IT) for the commercial success of the UK"

Perhaps you would confirm that this was what was intended.

- ii) She would prefer to try and distance the IT Secretariat a little from the ordinary Secretariat of the Cabinet Office, if at all possible, and with this in mind she would like the penultimate sentence of the second paragraph of the Answer to read:-

"In addition, I have established a small team within the Cabinet Office, made up of both permanent officials and personnel on secondment from the private sector".

- iii) The Prime Minister thinks that it would help to make paragraph three read more clearly if it ran:-

"..... between my right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Industry and the Minister of State for Industry and Information Technology on the one hand and private commerce and industry on the other and will reinforce"

AH

I understand that the Civil Service Department have asked for the removal of the words "and monitor" from the last sentence of paragraph two of the draft Answer. I have not consulted the Prime Minister about this but I am sure she would agree to the change.

The Prime Minister is content that the Question should be answered on Thursday 11 June.

She is not, however, happy with the proposal to issue a press notice identifying Mr Brian Unwin as the head of the IT Secretariat. She has commented "I do not like announcing Cabinet Office responsibilities".

AW.

8 June 1981



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR. WRIGHT

Information Technology

The Prime Minister has considered Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 18 May (Ref: AO4932), and has approved his proposals for the external advisers on information technology and his suggestion that she should make an announcement by means of a written PQ. She also agrees that Sir Robert might pursue with Mr. Baker the possibility of adding an adviser from one of the three major electronic companies.

I am expecting the Prime Minister to write to each of the proposed advisers tomorrow; when we have their replies, and when Sir Robert has followed up the additional external adviser point, you will no doubt let me have a draft PQ and Written Answer.

TL

21 May 1981



Inv Pd

10 DOWNING STREET

Mr Hodgson

R

Do you have

any documents on

these names - by

Wednesday evening pls.

→ ~~AD~~, ~~AS~~

→ R

19/5

Ref. A04932

MR LANKESTER



Prime Minister
Are you content with
these proposals? If so, I
will let you have letters to
write to each of the advisers
after Robert Armstrong has come
back to you on the
point at x.

Information Technology

Your minute of 6 April conveyed the Prime Minister's approval to the proposals in my minute of 3 April for the provision of external advisers on information technology, and I have discussed them with Mr Kenneth Baker. He has taken soundings and has suggested the following names of people from industry for the Prime Minister's consideration:

- Mr I H Cohen, Managing Director, Mullard Ltd
- ✓ Mr C N Read, Director, Inter-Bank Research Organisation
- ✓ Mr B Mills, Chairman, Computer Management Group Ltd (CMG)
- ✓ Mr K J Aldrich, Managing Director, Rediffusion Computers Ltd
- ✓ Dr D Hartley, Director, Cambridge University Computing Service
- ✓ Mr C A Davies, Information Technology Ltd (ITL)

2. They have all been informally sounded out and, if invited, would be willing to serve in an unpaid capacity as advisers to the Government in general, and to Mr Baker and to the Information Technology Secretariat which has now been set up in the Cabinet Office in particular, in the area of information technology.

--- Brief notes on each of them are attached. Collectively they provide as wide a range of experience and awareness in the field of information technology as is possible in a relatively small group. Mr Aldrich and Mr Davies in particular should supply the entrepreneurial approach that the Government wish to encourage. The major gap in what is proposed is that there are no representatives of the three major electronic companies (Plessey, GEC and STC). Not only may they feel a little put out: it would be valuable to have a source of advice in that area. If the Prime Minister agrees, I will pursue with Mr Baker the possibility of adding an adviser from this area.

x || 3. The Prime Minister will wish to consider how the announcement of these appointments, and the formation of the Cabinet Office IT Secretariat, should be made. I suggest that she might make the announcement by means of a written PQ. This could emphasise the importance of IT to the Government as a whole and the role of the advisers in relation to Government Departments generally, not just the Department of Industry.



4. Mr Baker will, I think, wish to follow such an announcement with a Press conference at which he will cover other IT developments as well, for example the designation of 1982 as Information Technology Year. If the Prime Minister is content, the IT Secretariat will liaise with the Department of Industry accordingly.

--- 5. I attach a draft letter to the proposed advisers inviting them to serve, together with a list of names and addresses to which the invitations should be sent.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

18 May 1981

CONQUEROR



MR I H COHEN TD., BA

Age 50

Managing Director - Mullard Limited since January 1979

- Council Member ECIF
- Chairman ECIF Automotive Electronics Committee
- Member Components Sector Working Party (NEDO)

Previously Divisional Director, Philips Lighting 1977-8

- Divisional Director, Communications & General Industrial Division, Mullard Ltd., 1974-7
- General Manager, Instrumentation & Control Division, Mullard Ltd., 1973-4
- Sales Manager, Computer Electronics Division.
Manager Market Planning, Industrial Electronics Division.
Both Mullard Ltd.

Set up and ran first computer order processing operation of Mullard 1964-7.

Joined Mullard 1957.

Previous jobs in engineering industry 1954-7.

Served Army:- 1952-4 National Service 2/Lt. Royal Signals
1954-69 Territorial Army (Major 1964-9)

University University College London
BA(Hons) in Modern History



MR CHARLES READ

Age 56

Present post:
(since 1973)

Director, Inter-Bank Research Organisation

University:

London School of Economics, B.Sc (Econ)

Jobs:

Very extensive experience in Management Science, Computing and Automation, and Telecommunications, particularly in the design, implementation and management of information and control systems in industry, commerce and Government administration.

1970:

Joined Inter-Bank Research Organisation (IBRO) (organisation owned by Clearing Banks to identify problems particularly in area of information handling, retail banking and use of modern technology.)

1973:

Director, IBRO

Other activities:

Formerly member of the Computers, Systems and Electronics Requirements Board, DoI. Member of Data Protection Committee, chaired by Sir Norman Lindop. Member of ACARD Working Group on Information Technology. (Also one of three people asked by Chancellor of Exchequer in 1980 to advise on automation of UK PAYE Tax System).



MR BRYAN MILLS

Age 49

Present post: Chairman, Computer Management Group (CMG) Ltd,
Croydon (since 1965)

University: Cambridge University (Law and Economics)

Jobs:

1955-56 Assistant Principal, CRO

1956-65 Marketing activities, Burroughs Machines

1965 Founded CMG which is now one of the top six
UK software companies. Major activities in
UK and Europe, employs 600 staff, turnover
ca £15M.

Mr Mills was involved in the formation of the Computer
Services Association and was its first President.



MR MICHAEL JOHN ALDRICH

Age 39

Present post: Managing Director and Chief Executive,
(since 1977) Rediffusion Computers Ltd

University: University of Hull BA (History)

Jobs:

1962-70 Joined Burroughs as salesman in 1962
and rose to UK Marketing Manager.

1970-77 Honeywell: Marketing Manager

Mr Aldrich has had wide design, sales and marketing experience in the computer hardware and software industry.



DR DAVID F HARTLEY

Age 43

Present post: Director, Cambridge University Computing
(since 1970) Service

University: MA., Ph.D (Computing Science) Cambridge

1967 Lecturer in Computing Science, Cambridge

Other activities: Member of the Computer Board since 1979
Member of SRC Facility Committee on
Computing.



MR CLIVE ANTHONY DAVIES

Age 37

Present post: Chief Executive, Information Technology Ltd
(since 1980)

University: London, BSc (Electronics)

Jobs:

1965-68 Research Engineer, Plessey Automation Ltd

1968-70 Marketing Director, CETA Ltd

1970-78 MD and Founder of Membrain Ltd

1978 Sold Membrain to Schlumberger

1978-79 General Manager, Schlumberger, UK Electronics
Division

1980 Founded ITL (now holding company for Computer
Technology Ltd and Office Technology Ltd)

Hr 08

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

As you will know, the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development has advised the Government of the importance of the United Kingdom being fully aware of the opportunities offered by the developments in information technology. The Government intend that full advantage of these opportunities should be taken, and accordingly have set in motion a programme of action within Government Departments. Mr Kenneth Baker, a Minister of State in the Department of Industry, has been designated as Minister for Information Technology; and a small Information Technology Secretariat has been set up in the Cabinet Office, to make sure that this programme is pursued vigorously and without delays .

2. It is important that the proposals being worked out within Government Departments should be subject to external scrutiny from those whose interests and skills are directly in the field of IT, and there is a need for advice from people holding senior and active positions in industry to be made available to Government Departments, individually and collectively.

3. I should be very grateful if you would agree to become one of the external advisers to whom my colleagues and I, and the Information Technology Secretariat in the Cabinet Office, could look for such advice and guidance. I understand that you have indicated informally to the Department of Industry that you would be willing to advise in this way. The appointment would be

Hn 08

honorary and unpaid; but I hope you will feel able to accept it.

Ref. A04932

Replaced

MR LANKESTER

Information Technology

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good - v. hard-headed! - Mr B Mills, Chairman, Computer Management Group Ltd (CMG)

Mr K J Aldrich, Managing Director, Rediffusion Computers Ltd

Dr D Hartley, Director, Cambridge University Computing Service

Mr C A Davies, Information Technology Ltd (ITL)

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ROBERT ARMSTRONG

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18 May 1981