



Prime Minister

Prime Minister

The Chief Secretary's Minute is attached. If you wish to see the report to which Mr Prior refers, it is available but it is not light reading! The Efficiency Unit and the Chief Secretary agree that it should be published: Do you accept her advice?

A 25/8.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE - NORTHERN IRELAND DEPARTMENTS

1. In my minute of 17 July I indicated my intention to publish an FMI report (not a White Paper) in parallel with the White Paper on the FMI in Great Britain. Your Private Secretary's minute of 17 July indicated that you wished to see the report before giving final approval to publication. I now enclose a copy. /
(in attached folder)
2. As I said in my earlier minute, the Initiative in Northern Ireland has been conducted in a manner which is entirely consistent with the FMI in Great Britain. Its main themes are identified as the improvement of the management of administrative resources and of programme expenditure and the development of information systems. The document, and the work underlying it, also reflect those factors peculiar to Northern Ireland which I mentioned in my minute.
3. I believe that the report demonstrates progress in terms of achievement to date as well as concrete, realistic planning for future action. Since the task is formidable and the potential benefits considerable, I intend that the FMI effort in Northern Ireland should continue to be given a high priority.
4. I should be grateful for confirmation that you are content that I should proceed to publish the Northern Ireland Report simultaneously with the White Paper for Great Britain.
5. I am copying this minute and the report to the Chief Secretary



and to Lord Gowrie, who is of course very familiar with all this work from his oversight of the Department of Finance and Personnel before the election.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, elongated loop.

J P

5 August 1983

ENC



25 AUG 1953

11 12 1
20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

cc D.W

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Increases	Significant Decreases	Small Decreases	Closures	No Change
Rosyth AWO Aberdeen AWO AEO Newcastle AWO AEO York AWO Manchester RHQ AEO Cardiff RHQ AWO AEO Plymouth AWO AEO Cheltenham AWO Bulford AWO (Salisbury Plain) Nottingham AWO AEO Shrewsbury AWO AEO Cambridge RHQ AWO AEO Newmarket AWO Colchester AWO Abington AWO AEO Aldershot AWO AEO Portsmouth AWO AEO	Edinburgh RHQ AEO Leeds RHQ AWO AEO Haverfordwest AWO Colwyn Bay AWO AEO Bristol RHQ AWO AEO Birmingham RHQ AWO AEO Hastings RHQ AEO	Glasgow AWO AEO Reading RHQ AEO Preston AWO AEO	∅ Warrington AWO x Bournemouth AWO AEO Chatham AWO AEO Shorncliffe AWO (Folkstone) ∅ possible new DWO x possible retention small estates unit	N. Ireland AWO AEO London (5) 3

TOTAL 17

TOTAL 7

TOTAL 2

TOTAL 5

TOTAL 6

AWO = Area Works Office
AEO = Area Estate Office
RHQ = Regional Headquarters



Joe AA

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 August 1983

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's minute of 5 August about the publication of a Financial Management Initiative report on the Northern Ireland Departments in parallel with the White Paper on the FMI in Great Britain. She has also seen the Chief Secretary's minute of 22 August commenting on this proposal. Mrs. Thatcher has agreed that the Northern Ireland Report can now be published as proposed by Mr. Prior, subject to the points made by the Chief Secretary.

I am sending copies of this to John Gieve (Chief Secretary's Office) and Mary Brown (Office of the Minister for the Arts).

Timothy Flesher

John Lyon, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

cc/No.

FROM: CHIEF SECRETARY

DATE: 22 AUGUST 1983



PRIME MINISTER

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE - NORTHERN IRELAND DEPARTMENTS

Jim Prior sent me and Grey Gowrie copies of his minute to you of 5 August. This reply is on behalf of us both.

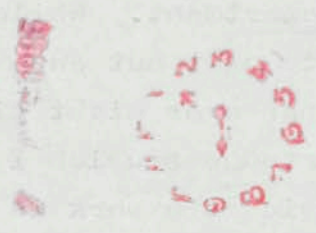
2. We greatly welcome the action he is taking to apply the FMI in Northern Ireland, and feel sure that it is sensible to give the Assembly and the public in Northern Ireland a report on what is being done.
3. One point occurs to me on presentation, since the report is to be issued at the same time as the White Paper, and will be compared with it. In discussing factors special to Northern Ireland, Chapter 2 says that it is important not to attempt too much too quickly and that it is not possible to make simultaneous progress on all aspects in each individual department. While we all agree that changes must be carefully thought out and deliberately introduced, I think that these passages might give the general reader an impression of half-heartedness which I am sure would not do justice to the way in which the work is actually being tackled.
4. Looking to the next stage, I hope that the Northern Ireland Office will continue to keep the Treasury in touch with developments. We shall be glad to give any help we can in reading across from departmental experience in Great Britain. If officials would like to get in touch with the Financial Management Unit, which reports to the Treasury and MPO jointly, it will be ready to help.
5. Copies of this minute go to Jim Prior and Grey Gowrie

PETER REES

Civil Service: England Pt 13



Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.



Large, faint, mirrored watermark text, possibly reading 'LONDON' and 'CONVENTION'.