



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

David Norgrove Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON

9 December 1985

Dear David

CIVIL SERVICE NUMBERS

This letter reports the latest Civil Service Manpower figures.

Departments' staff-in-post figures at 1 October 1985 totalled 595,764 - a net reduction of 399 in the last quarter, made up of 392 industrials and 7 non-industrials. The new figure represents an overall reduction in the size of the Civil Service of 136,511, or 18.6 per cent since the Government took office, with the number of non-industrials reduced by 69,834 and of industrials by 66,677.

The out-turn is generally in line with expectations; some slowing down in the pace of recent reductions was anticipated for this quarter, which is the period when the majority of recruitment takes place. The largest reduction took place in MOD (557) because of continued efforts to control the replacement of staff. There were increases of 305½ in DHSS (due to the build-up of the Office of the President of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal and the computer centres) and of 256 in Inland Revenue (reflecting increased recruitment).

It is proposed to announce the October figures shortly by way of a low-key Written Answer. The Prime Minister may like to know what the figures are before they are announced.

Yours ever
Richard

R J BROADBENT