

MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE

Pse return
to CF CCBSPrime Minister
MEA 30/5

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

David Norgrove Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London
SW1

29 May 1986

Dear David,

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CIVIL SERVICE NUMBERS

You may like to let the Prime Minister know that at 1 April there were 594,365 civil servants in post. This is a reduction of 2,141 in the last quarter; and an overall reduction in the size of the Civil Service of approximately 138,000 (18.8%) since 1 April, 1979. This compares with 133,000 or 18.2 per cent this time last year.

Although the 1 April total was 6,110 below the overall target for that date of 600,475 that is partly because MOD imposed a ban on the recruitment of industrials during the quarter, and partly because of delays in filling vacancies in the Crown Prosecution Service and in DHSS (following the recent complement increase).

The most significant reductions in the last quarter were in MOD (2,004), Inland Revenue (1,018) and PSA (443). There were large increases in Employment (700), and the Home Office (441). The industrials total went down by 2,469 (MOD and PSA in the main); and non-industrials showed an increase of 328.

We propose to publish the figures in the normal way by means of an arranged PQ in a week's time.

In his minute to the Prime Minister commenting on the manpower implications of the Budget measures, the Chancellor said that it would be necessary to make a manpower reassessment as part of the 1986 Public Expenditure Survey.

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There is nothing further to report at this early stage of the Survey, but the Chief Secretary will review the position in the light of any manpower bids received, and will report if necessary to the Prime Minister.

Yours,

Jill.

JILL RUTTER
Private Secretary

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