



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
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PRIME MINISTER

INTERIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TEACHERS' PAY

I have seen Kenneth Baker's minute to you of 23 April. *at trap*

I believe that it is important that the members should be seen to be non-partisan, independent and of stature. Peter Main clearly satisfies these criteria, but I am concerned about the other names mentioned. Our experience with Austin Bide at BL does not encourage me, while Ray Carter, in addition to the problem of his Labour Party background, is not sufficiently heavy weight. Nicky Harrison is a Labour Party activist (of considerable charm) who was a key figure in Burnham and seems moderate only by comparison with her successors. If other names are to be sought for the Committee, I would be glad to suggest some.

She is a former Tiller girl.

More generally, I am sure that we should keep the resources in support of the Interim Committee to a minimum cost. There is no need for the Committee to involve itself in elaborate research for what should essentially be an up-dating exercise. But I have strong reservations about the secretariat's being provided by DES officials, particularly if they would be continuing their official duties concurrently. That might give rise to questions of independence of the interim committee. To use the OME might be more acceptable on what count, but might carry the flavour that the interim Committee was yet another Pay Review Body. I therefore conclude that we should consider giving the committee a small independent secretariat on short-term contracts. I suggest that officials look at this possibility, and at the total costs of the Interim Committee.

APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE



I am content with the general outline set out in paragraphs 9 and 10 of Kenneth's minute, but should be grateful to have a chance to comment on the precise terms of the statement and letter of appointment and/or terms of reference.

Finally, the appointment of the Interim Committee will not prevent the teachers' unions complaining about the loss of their negotiating rights, which is now a major point in their campaign. We need to return fairly soon to the issue of how teachers' pay is to be determined in the longer term.

N.L.

27 April 1987

EDUCATION: Teachers' Pay PTD

