

Note: Told Eddie Gowans PM
did not want to make seminar.
Told Barbara Jones, Wakeham's
office that DOE should drop the
third official.

CONFIDENTIAL

me
AT
4/12

①
PRIME MINISTER

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SEMINAR: 31 MARCH

I am facing difficulties in keeping out gate-crashers from the Seminar on Local Government Finance at Chequers. In addition to the original suggestions we have admitted Lord Young and Mr. Hoffman. Mr. Younger is pressing for Mr. Ancram to attend. This will inevitably lead to a request for a Junior Welsh Minister - either Mr. Stradling-Thomas or Mr. Roberts. If we agreed to Junior territorial Ministers it will be difficult to keep out Sir Keith Joseph; and if he comes then other service Ministers will want to come and we are back to E(LF).

The purpose of the Seminar was to give DOE's ideas a pilot launch before a few non-service Ministers before work started in E(LF). The aim is to seek a political, rather than a technical, reaction. Although Mr. Ancram deals with local government from day to day in Scotland, I fear allowing him to come will overload the meeting.

At present the guest list is as follows:

MINISTERS

Prime Minister
The Lord President
Secretary of State for the
Environment
Secretary of State for
Scotland
Secretary of State for Wales

OFFICIALS

Lord Rothschild
Mr. Hoffman ?
Mr. Heizer
Mr. Mayer
One other DOE official
Mr. Redwood
Mr. Letwin

CONFIDENTIAL

Minister Without Portfolio
Minister for Local Government
Paymaster General
Mr. Waldegrave

Mr. Brearley ?
Mr. Butler
Myself

9

10

Agree no further invitations?

*Who is Mr. Brearley - who invited him?
Mr. Holtman
No further invitation
- already was large.*

AT

ANDREW TURNBULL

1 March 1985