



FROM: CHIEF SECRETARY  
DATE: 15 November 1984

(2)  
PRIME MINISTER

AT 12/14

*[Handwritten signature]*

**CIVIL SERVICE NUMBERS**

You will wish to know the latest Civil Service manpower figures.

2 We now have departments' staff-in-post figures for 1 October 1984. The total stands at 617,200 - a reduction of 2,000 on the last quarter. The size of the Civil Service has now fallen by 115,100 (15.7 per cent) since the beginning of the last Parliament. The reduction in numbers produces a gross saving in pay costs in a full year of about £ one billion at current rates. This is partially offset by the costs of services contracted out to the private sector or hived off to other public sector bodies; these cannot be precisely costed.

3 The reduction of 2,000 in the last quarter comprises 700 non-industrials and 1,300 industrials. Gross savings totalled about 3,000; the most significant reductions were in the Ministry of Defence (1,050, mainly due to the contracting out of the issue of accommodation stores at RAF Quedgeley and the general rundown of Portsmouth Dockyard), the Department of Employment (690, mainly due to the planned rundown in local offices following a work measurement exercise) and the Manpower Services Commission (460, mainly as a result of the rundown in the Skillcentre Training Agency). There were offsetting increases of about 1000, of which about 170 were in the Department of Trade and Industry (due to the transfer in of staff in the Radio Interference Service), and about 160 in Customs and Excise (reflecting, among other things, the recruitment of more staff to combat drug smuggling).

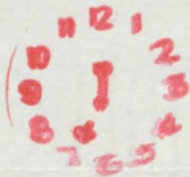
4 The October figures will be announced by way of a written answer within the next day or so.

*[Handwritten initials PR]*

PETER REES



16 NOV 1984







DT 22/8  
1) Mr Fletcher: to see  
2) please p.a.

amb  
17/8

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

David Barclay Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

17 August 1984

Dear David

CIVIL SERVICE MANPOWER NUMBERS: STAFF IN POST AT 1 JULY 1984

There were 619,200 civil servants in post at 1 July 1984. This represents a reduction of about 4,800 during the quarter, and indicates that Civil Service manpower is continuing to fall faster than had been planned.

The 1 July figure means that Civil Service manpower numbers have been reduced by 15.4 per cent since the Government took office in 1979. This represents a gross reduction of about £882 million in pay costs for a full year at 1983-84 rates. This is partially offset by the costs of services contracted out to the private sector or hived off to other public sector bodies; these cannot be precisely costed.

The reduction of 4,800 in the last quarter is made up of 3,400 non-industrials and 1,400 industrials. The biggest reductions were in Defence (1,500), Inland Revenue (870) and Employment (650). And about 700 were removed from the count because of the decision to exclude women on unpaid maternity leave.

As you know, we usually publish these figures by means of an arranged PQ and let the Prime Minister know the figures before we do so. We were unable to do this before Parliament rose for the Summer Recess so, exceptionally on this occasion, we intend to publish them on Monday, 20 August by means of a Treasury Press Notice.

M E CORCORAN  
Private Secretary





PRESS NOTICE

CIVIL SERVICE MANPOWER

Civil Service numbers fell by 4,800 in the second quarter of the year, to stand at 619,200 on 1 July. This brings the reduction in the size of the Civil Service to more than 113,000 - or 15.4 per cent - since the beginning of the last Parliament. The reduction of 4,800 comprised 3,400 non-industrials and 1,400 industrials.

Commenting today on these figures, the Minister of State Treasury, Mr Barney Hayhoe MP, said the reduction was a further step towards the Government's aim of slimming down the Civil Service by around one-fifth between 1979 and 1988.