



Minister of State

Mark Addison Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1

*Dear Mark,*

HARD-TO-FILL VACANCIES: NOTE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

Further to your telephone conversation with Mr Morrison I attach:

- a note (Annex 1) giving examples of jobcentres experiencing particular difficulties in filling vacancies.
- a note (Annex 2) summarising the national picture including the geographical areas and types of occupation worst affected.

The Prime Minister may well want some good examples of the wages being offered for unfilled vacancies. I should be grateful if you would ring me tonight about any additional information required and I will get it to you first thing tomorrow morning.

*Yours sincerely,  
Stuart Lane*

STUART LANE  
Private Secretary

*cf. p.c. or vake for many file.  
MCA 7/6*

Department of Employment  
Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NF  
Telephone Direct Line 01-213... 5949  
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*Prime Minister.*

*I understand you working for some facts and figures on skill shortages for your David Frost interview tomorrow. Peter Morrison has provided the attached at start 6 June 1985*


*note, which may be helpful. A Sun press report is also attached.*

*There may be many reasons for the shortages (training, balance of pay & benefit availability of benefit, attractiveness of the job etc). But the facts show that there are already plenty of right spots in the labour market as the economy picks up.*

*MCA 6/6*

<u>Jobcentre</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Occupations</u>
1. Staines	London	Security, Catering, Driving - competition from surrounding areas for workers.
2. Kingston	London	Engineering and Construction Skills ; also part time vacancies are a problem.
3. Slough	South East	132 skill shortage vacancies identified, mainly in Engineering and construction also same in high tech eg electronics engineers.
4. High Wycombe	South East	70 skill shortage vacancies, mainly in engineering eg Machine tool setters and setter operators. Also construction, particularly electricians.
5. Sevenoaks	South East	15 skill shortage vacancies, 7 in engineering and 6 carpenters.
6. Coventry	Midlands	Difficulties are being experienced in finding engineering skills in an area which is traditionally an engineering area. Occupations for which there are a shortage includes Centre Lathe turners, Millers and Grinders.
7. Smethwick	Midlands	Difficulties with skilled engineering as above. Also some secretarial vacancies.
8. Bristol	South West	Shortage in Secretarial and typing of which a contributing factor is a lack of adaptability, also no training by employers to meet requirements of changing technology.

## LONG DURATION VACANCIES

1. The survey of Long Duration Vacancies (SLDV) conducted in March asked Jobcentres to report on every 2nd order which had been outstanding for more than 2 months. The survey is designed to provide information on skill shortages and other reasons for vacancies being hard to fill.
  2. The stock of unfilled vacancies at Jobcentres in Great Britain was 146,057 in March of which 20,000 had been unfilled for more than 2 months. Skill shortages were concentrated in London and the South East followed by Wales, South West and Midlands some way behind.
  3. The main occupations identified as skill shortages were:
    - Machine Tool Setter Operators
    - Mechanical Maintenance and Repair Occupations
    - Sewing Machinists
    - Chefs and Catering Supervisors
    - Nurses
  4. Vacancies which were hard to fill (but not skill shortages) most often occurred in selling occupations and in catering, cleaning, hairdressing and other personal service occupations.
- 

## Porn rap for BT calendar

● BRITISH TELECOM bosses were branded "pimps and soft porn merchants" yesterday in a row over a saucy calendar.

● Two hundred delegates at the National Communication Union's clerical group conference in Blackpool slammed Telecom's calendar showing girls draped provocatively around pipes and ducts below the slogan: "Dial Before You Dig."

● The calendars were sent to contractors warning them about digging up phone cables by mistake.

Sun special on a shock problem for firms

# GISSA WORKER!

*Town that can't fill its spare jobs*

By JOHN KAY

**JOB**s paying up to £230 a week are going begging despite record unemployment.

The town of Sevenoaks, in Kent, has 400 unfilled vacancies, with more than 1,000 men and women there on the dole.

And that amazing situation is being repeated in other towns around the country.

There are two main reasons:

● **THE LAZINESS** of some unemployed people who are comfortably off on the dole.

A married man with two children can easily collect £100 a week from social security.

So he asks himself: "What is the point of working to end up just a few pounds better off each week?"

● **THE FAILURE** to match up the unemployed to the posts that are vacant.

Often, a jobless person does not have suitable skills. Others are reluctant to move to a new area to find work.

In Sevenoaks, both Government and private employment agencies have scores of good jobs on offer.

Select Employment in the High Street has about 180 vacancies.

### SEVENOAKS

Agency official Wendy Ogilvie-Taylor said: "Our vacancies have quadrupled in the last four years."

"If only somebody bothered to walk into our office, it is highly likely they would walk out with a job."

The Sevenoaks Job Centre has 214 vacancies. Manager Rita Gilfellow said: "Our message to the unemployed is: Please come in and see us."

Local businessman Roger Hogg desperately wants toolmakers—to save his family firm.

### LIFE ON THE DOLE

A MARRIED man with two children, who has been out of work for over a year, would get from social security each week:

Supplementary benefit	£45.55
Child under five	£ 9.60
Child aged 11 to 15	£14.35
Rent and rates (ave.)	£30.00
Free school meals	
worth	£10.00
Heating allowance	£ 2.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>£111.60</b>
<b>MINUS</b> child benefit	
for two children	£13.70
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>£97.90</b>

# MAKE FRIENDS

with **data link**

## INEXPENSIVE COMPUTER DATING

It makes sense .....

to join a large modern Organisation  
... I've been really impressed by your overall efficiency ... not least my partners being within a reasonable travelling distance ... You have obviously analysed the problems ... I am very grateful for all your attention and efforts ...  
Mr. C. T. (Lancashire)

"Twenty out of ten for finding me a gorgeous man. .... Mike and I hit it off right from meeting."  
Miss S. N. Sussex.

I am now engaged to the very first person I met through your Organisation. We are very much in love, and I can't thank you enough for your

## Who joins Datalink?

In simple terms ..... everyone! We have Members of all ages and from every walk of life. Professional, manual, students .... yes even titled people.

And our Service is

### £130 A WEEK

**WANTED:** Robert Young Removals, Storage and Shipping, of Sevenoaks, are looking for a removal man.

Wages: £130 a week (£3.25 an hour). Hours: 8am to 4pm. Skills: HGV Class 3 driving licence. Age: Over 21.

National Insurance contribution: £11.76. Income tax: £19.07. Take-home pay: £99.23.

### £140 A WEEK

**WANTED:** The B.L. Plastics Company, of Vestry Estate, Sevenoaks, is seeking a plastics laminator.

Wages: £140 a week (£3 an hour plus overtime). Hours: 8am to 6pm, including overtime. Skills: Fully-trained or training available. Age: Immaterial.

National Insurance contribution: £12.60.

## It makes sense .....

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 Miss C. H. Bradford

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 And our Service is **STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL**

## Just Consider the facts ....

- ★ We are based in the centre of England, yet we cover the ENTIRE country. You can be sure of finding a local partner.
- ★ We advertise in most local papers every week - providing a constant supply of New Members everywhere.
- ★ We genuinely CARE that you are matched with compatible partners.
- ★ You will find Datalink REAL value for money - probably the least expensive National (Computer Dating) Agency. We economise on PRICE - but not on SERVICE.



## FREE COMPUTER TEST

1000s of delighted Members have completed our Questionnaire. Why not fill in this simple version. We will send you FREE and in COMPLETE CONFIDENCE full information about Datalink AND details of just ONE of the many Datalink Members who we feel you would like to meet. It could well lead to 'Life's most wonderful Gift', a friend, a companion, a partner for Life.

Please process this completed questionnaire; send me full information on Datalink, AND details of someone you believe will be compatible. I understand that this is FREE and WITHOUT OBLIGATION.

I am over 17. **START HERE**

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

### YOUR PERSONALITY:

Are You

Shy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outgoing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nervous	<input type="checkbox"/>	Self-Confident	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affectionate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fun Loving	<input type="checkbox"/>
Romantic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ambitious	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intellectual	<input type="checkbox"/>	Creative	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tolerant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Generous	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your sex ..... (M/F) Your height ..... Your age .....

Age range of person you wish to meet Min ..... Max .....

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### YOUR INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES

If you enjoy any of the following please ✓ tick. If you have particular dislikes please indicate with a X cross. Otherwise leave blank.

Pop Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Classical Music	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pub Evenings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dancing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dining Out	<input type="checkbox"/>	Collecting Things	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travelling	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spectator Sport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Theatre/Cinema	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poetry/Reading	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking/Cycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gardening	<input type="checkbox"/>
Committee Work	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conversation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Watching TV	<input type="checkbox"/>	Museum visits	<input type="checkbox"/>

**DATALINK; P.O. BOX 100, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON**

Telephone (0789) 750092. (24-hr Reply Service) SN6

## SEVENOAKS

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"If only somebody bothered to walk into our office, it is highly likely they would walk out with a job."

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Local businessman Roger Hogg desperately wants toolmakers—to save his family firm.

Mr Hogg, managing director of the Otford Tool Company, said: "My

and Shipping, of Sevenoaks, are looking for a removal man.

Wages: £130 a week (£3.25 an hour). Hours: 8am to 4pm. Skills: HGV Class 3 driving licence. Age: Over 21. National Insurance contribution: £11.70. Income tax: £19.07. Take-home pay: £99.23.

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National Insurance contribution: £12.60. Income tax: £22.07. Take-home pay: £105.33.

## SEVENOAKS

last toolmaker came from Australia and he returned home last Saturday.

"I've got £500,000 worth of equipment and hardly anyone to use it. I may have to pack up soon."

Expanding insurance firm Confederation Life of London wants to open a branch office in Sevenoaks.

But they have had a vacancy for a life and pensions consultant registered at the local job centre for more than A YEAR at a starting salary of £230-a-week.

Marketing manager Peter Cotterell said: "We are just not getting any takers. We cannot understand it."

## £160 A WEEK

WANTED: The Otford Tool Co., Riverhead, Sevenoaks, is desperately searching for toolmakers.

Wages: £160 a week (£4 an hour). Hours: 8am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Skills: Toolmaking indentures. Age: Immaterial.

## £230 A WEEK

WANTED: Insurance firm Confederation Life, of London, are seeking a life and pensions consultant to be based in Sevenoaks.

Wages: £230 a week to start. Hours: 40 a week, including some evening work. Skills: O-levels, on-job training available. Age: 25-45.

National Insurance contribution: £20.70. Income tax: £49.07. Take-home pay: £160.23.

## 3 HURT AS LIGHTNING STRIKES Vicar in a votes brawl

THREE people were hurt yesterday as lightning hit a house.

They were rescued by firemen as flames swept through the house in Hookley, Essex.

A fire brigade spokesman said: "It seems a bolt of lightning started the blaze."

The lightning also knocked out radio aerials at the Thames Valley Police headquarters in Kidlington, Oxon, as thunderstorms swept southern England.

to keep below 50mph on the M3 motorway in Hampshire as torrential rain out visibility.

The sudden storms washed out a week of sunshine that put Mediterranean resorts in the shade.

Last night the London Weather Centre would not forecast any immediate let up in the storms.

A VIOLENT punch-up between councillors including a vicar erupted last night as a Sinn Féin member was elected vice-chairman of one of Ulster's new district councils.

Louis McBride raised clenched fist victory salute at Maghrafelt, Londonderry, and sparked a 30-minute battle between Unionists and Republicans before police separated them.