

PRIME MINISTER

To allow time for preparation of papers, draft announcement and printing, a decision is needed on Monday on whether to go for Cabinet discussion and announcement this coming Thursday. Mr Fowler recommends delay until after Whitsun:-

- (i) because he has still not finalised the staging package he was asked to produce last Wednesday.
- (ii) announcement before the Recess leaves the story to run unguarded through the Recess.
- (iii) he is busy finalising the social security reviews.

Sir Keith Joseph (para 5 of his minute of 17 May in the folder for the teachers' pay meeting) also argues for delay to allow time to make progress with teachers.

You could delay to 6 June without being later than last year.

You may want to have a brief word after E(LF) and before lunch, which Mr Fowler is not attending, to resolve this. Agree?

I have looked further into the method of announcement. Only once have you made a statement - for the TSRB in 1980 when MP's pay was a major part of the issue. On all other occasions the TSRB has been announced by written answer and the armed forces and doctors reviews have always been by written answer. Written answer was the norm under labour.

I see no advantage in departing from this practice to which you would find it very difficult to return. The difficulty this year is not the Government's decisions which

are generous (though they will generate ritual protest) but the comparison with civil servants, teachers and other less favoured pay groups. The natural stance in a statement is to be upbeat which only makes these comparisons worse. I understand you were concerned that the Thursday before the Recess might be thought "hole in corner". If this course were adopted I see no difficulty - one makes a virtue of getting the results quickly.

Duty Clerk

PP Andrew Turnbull

17 May 1985



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cc Richard Hatfield, CO

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CONFIDENTIAL

A Turnbull Esq
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London SW 1

21 May 1985

Dear Andrew,

REVIEW BODY REPORTS

When we spoke on the telephone this morning, I undertook to write to you about the availability of the Review Body Chairmen on 6 June to enable you and the departments concerned to consider arrangements for informing them of the Government's decisions on the reports in advance of the general announcement.

I understand that Sir John Greenborough is committed to an all-day meeting at Lloyds Bank, of which he has just recently been appointed Deputy Chairman. Sir Robert Clark has a lunch engagement at the National Westminster Bank (but could, I believe, get out of this if necessary). Sir David Orr is likely to be here in the morning and then has an engagement at the Royal Society. We could, therefore, run into some complications if the intention were that they should be seen by Ministers on the day, at least in the case of Sir John Greenborough, and of Sir David Orr particularly around the middle of the day. The position would be easier if they could be seen on the previous day, 5 June, when all of them (as things stand for the moment) would be available, but on the assumption that plans may not be completely settled before 6 June, I imagine that this will not be possible.

All of them will be contactable by phone on 6 June, and in the circumstances that might be the most feasible course (unless the nature of the decisions clearly renders it inappropriate). My feeling would be that, if it is decided to proceed on that basis, the suitable thing if possible would be for each of the Chairmen to be phoned some time before the announcement by the Secretary of State concerned (if someone could inform us here of the likely time of the phone calls, I am sure we could make arrangements to ensure smooth connections). I think it would be helpful if letters to the Chairmen, in the usual way, could then follow as soon as possible from the Prime Minister formally communicating what had been decided. Such an arrangement need not exclude the possibility of meetings subsequently between any of the Chairmen and the Prime Minister or appropriate departmental Minister if that were felt to be necessary in the light of the outcome. Chairmen will in any case, I am sure, want to take time to discuss the decisions whatever they may be with their colleagues.

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I understand that you will arrange to let us have a copy of the announcement (and a supply of the printed reports) in due course, so that we can relay personal copies to members as soon as it is released. If there is any aspect of the draft on which I can usefully comment, or if I can help in the arrangements in any other way, please let me know.

I am sending copies of this letter to Richard Mottram at MOD and Steve Godber at DHSS.

Yours sincerely
Ronald Williams.

R W WILLIAMS



file

10 DOWNING STREET

17 May 1985

REVIEW BODY REPORTS

Further to our telephone conversation concerning the arrangements for the printing and distribution of the Review Body reports this year I am now able to give you the final departmental requirements.

The details are as follows:

10 Downing Street	Private Office	20 of each report
	Press Office	200 of each report

Customer Account number: 2501715

HM Treasury 12 of each

Customer Account number: 1/730/116780

Lord Chancellor's Office 12 of TSRB

Customer Account number: 211/4703

Ministry of Defence

Private Office, Main Building	35 of Armed Forces
	10 of TSRB

PL(SPP)B, Room 8152, Main Building	71 of Armed Forces
	25 of TSRB

<u>Navy</u> , NP(P&F)1, Room 322, Archway Block South, Old Admiralty Building, SW1	900 of Armed Forces
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Army, PS(10) Army, Room 1023,
Empress State Building,
Lillie Road, Fulham SW6 2,300 of Armed Forces

RAF, DD(PS6) RAF, Room 311,
Astral House,
Theobolds Road, WC1 1,900 of Armed Forces

Customer Account number: 178/501/0001

DHSS, Private Office,
Alexander Fleming House,
Elephant and Castle. 400 of Nurses
200 of Professions Allied to Medicine
450 Doctors and Dentists.

Customer Account number: 1/880/99/1063

Chancellor of Duchy of Lancaster,
Private Office, Government
Offices, Great George Street,
SW1 3 of TSRB

Customer Account number: 725/35/8110

All of these reports should be packaged and labelled as above, and sent to No. 10 for forwarding when you have received a phone call from No. 10 on the day of publication giving the go-ahead; at the same time you will be authorised to distribute the reports **under embargo** to the Vote Office, House of Commons; the Printed Paper Office, House of Lords; and 50 copies of each report to the Office of Manpower Economics.

As I confirmed on the phone the TSRB report will be some time behind the others.

I have also been asked to tell you of two further requirements for the Doctors and Dentists Review Body Report:

1,140 copies should be sent to: Mr J Ford
British Medical Association
BMA House
Tavistock Square
London WC1

and,

300 copies to: Miss D Scarrot
British Dental Association
64 Wimpole Street
London W1

These organizations should be billed directly; could you please arrange for them to receive their copies direct from HMSO as soon after publication time as possible.

Please let me know if you require any clarification or further information.

MISS NICKY ROCHE
Parliamentary Clerk

Mrs Tassell
P3A
HMSO
51 Nine Elms Lane
London SW8