

CONFIDENTIAL

220 (1)



Prime Minister

Agree to

Proposed Pge Answer?  
Treasury are content  
(for more accuracy,  
resigned)

Handwritten initials

PRIME MINISTER

NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL SERVICE MANPOWER 1 APRIL 1986 TO 1 APRIL 1988

at flop

resigned

CJP 23/5

Last year Jim Prior sent you a note setting out the results of a manpower review which established new ceilings for manpower in the Northern Ireland Departments. We have just completed a similar exercise to round off the 1984 Public Expenditure Survey and I thought you might wish to know the outcome.

2. Our work was conducted in parallel with a similar exercise carried out in Whitehall, the results of which were published in Command 9428. Completion of the work in Northern Ireland had to await the outcome of the Great Britain exercise since the parity effects of decisions taken by Great Britain Departments have implications for Northern Ireland and are reflected in the revised targets. We have our own particular pressures, and when staffs are already small it is not always easy to cut them in the same proportion as a bigger organisation. Nevertheless the reduction in the Northern Ireland Civil Service which we will be able to achieve in the period up to 1 April 1988 matches that which is planned for comparable Great Britain Departments. The targets are as follows:-

<u>April 1986</u>	<u>April 1987</u>	<u>April 1988</u>
25,150	24,800	24,550

3. Given the pressures not least on our Social Security and Labour Market programmes, I think that this is a satisfactory outcome. I will, however, ensure that targets are kept under review.

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/If you

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.....  
4. If you are content, I propose to announce the targets by way of an inspired PQ along the lines of the attached draft. I am copying this minute to Cabinet colleagues and Sir Robert Armstrong.

N Ward  
(Private Secretary)

for D H

(Approved by the Secretary of State  
and signed in his absence in Belfast)

21 May 1985



Date for answer:

May 1985

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what decisions he has taken about Northern Ireland Civil Service manpower after April 1985.

MR HURD

I have reviewed manpower requirements of Northern Ireland Departments up to 1988 and have decided on the following targets:-

<u>1 April 1986</u>	<u>1 April 1987</u>	<u>1 April 1988</u>
25,150	24,800	24,550

The aim has been and continues to be the improvement of the Civil Service and to match staff numbers closely to the necessary function of Departments. A small contingency margin has been included to give a measure of flexibility in planning; the figures will be revised each year as part of the regular Expenditure Survey to take account of changing workload and other developments.

Carl Sence: LT power pt 17



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21 MAY 1985



DA  
⑦

bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

24 May 1985

**NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL SERVICE MANPOWER**

The Prime Minister has noted the Northern Ireland Secretary's minute of 21 May about the planned reductions in manpower in the Northern Ireland Civil Service. She is content with the proposed inspired PQ and Answer.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to Members of the Cabinet and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

(Charles Powell)

Neil Ward, Esq.,  
Northern Ireland Office.

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