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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
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Prime Minister²

PRIME MINISTER

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CIVIL SERVICE MANPOWER

Following my earlier minutes to you about my Budget proposals, I thought you might like a brief note on the effect of the Budget on Civil Service manpower numbers.

As last year, the most significant effect arises from the Department of Employment measures, which will require about 2,000 extra staff at April 1987 and April 1988. The largest single item is the nationwide extension of the counselling initiative and Jobstart allowance pilot schemes for the long-term unemployed, where there will be a continuing requirement, after an early peak, of about 1,000 staff. In addition, there will be an increase of 300 in the staff dealing with fraud, and a number of other more modest additions.

There will be no extra staff required in Customs and Excise. In the Inland Revenue, there will be a small reduction in 1986-87, thanks in part to a new simplified procedure for reporting benefits in kind; but in 1987-88, as the extra staffing requirements for a number of Budget measures come through, there will be a net increase of 300 staff.

On the face of it, the increases for the Department of Employment measures mean that the Government's overall manpower targets for both 1 April 1987 and 1 April 1988 will be breached. But, as John MacGregor pointed out in his minute to you of 7 March, it will in any case be necessary to look at the overall position after the Budget and make a reassessment, as part of the 1986 Public Expenditure Survey.

N.L.

14 March 1986

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File

DA



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 March 1986

CIVIL SERVICE MANPOWER

The Prime Minister was grateful for the Chancellor's minute of 14 March about the effects of the Budget on Civil Service manpower numbers.

(David Norgrove)

Mrs. Rachel Lomax,
HM Treasury.

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