

CONFIDENTIAL

✓ J. Vercher
A. Daynes



CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AZ
Telephone 01 273 5400

MBM

*Sir Ian Bancroft G.C.B.
Head of the Home Civil Service*

T P Lankester Esq
Private Secretary
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

28 July 1981

Dear Tim,

MBM

INDUSTRIAL ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

SELECTIVE ACTION

A total of 4989 staff are now involved in selective industrial action. There has been no escalation since the consultations on the new offer began and there are few developments to report. Those which have occurred are noted below and a table is attached giving details of numbers on strike.

CONSULTATIVE BALLOTS

At present there are still only random indications of the state of voting on the offer. However, it is reported that voting by IRSF members is now complete and that a majority have come out in favour of rejection. In the other unions the present likelihood appears to be acceptance by varying amounts, though none has a full return as yet, and some of the indications, particularly for SCPS, are conflicting.

There has been a strong tendency for staff in MOD to vote for acceptance: only 4 meetings out of the 30 held so far have voted against.

At DHSS, CPSA members balloted up to now have voted 3704 to 3346 for acceptance. Voting among SCPS members is less clear cut, with staff in Manchester and the North-West favouring rejection, and Nottingham and Newcastle voting for acceptance. In Customs & Excise there is a general impression that SCPS staff have so far voted about 2 to 1 in favour of acceptance. The consultative process should be complete by Thursday, when it is reported that CCSU will meet to discuss their response to the offer.

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ACTION WITH DEPARTMENTS

EMPLOYMENT

506 staff are on strike from 19 Unemployment Benefit Offices. Six offices are closed, at Keighley, Kinning Park, Hackney, Easterhouse Willesden and Wembley. Contingency arrangements are operating satisfactorily. (but see DHSS below).

DHSS

Offices in Cricklewood, Neasden and Harlesden were closed yesterday afternoon because of pressure of demand from UBO claimants. An emergency payment centre is being opened today in Harlesden and the 3 offices should, as a result, be able to re-open.

MOD

The number of staff involved in selective action is now down to 560. Since the last report about 30 staff have returned to work at the Clyde Submarine Base and a few staff have returned at the Mapping and Charting Establishment, Feltham.

FCO-PASSPORT OFFICES

The remaining strikers at Glasgow and Liverpool returned to work on Monday, thus ending industrial action within the Passport Offices.

Copies as before.

Yours ever,

Jeremy

J G COLMAN
Private Secretary

SELECTIVE ACTION BY NON-INDUSTRIAL CIVIL SERVANTS

SUMMARY OF POSITION - 28 JULY 1981

Department	Number on strike	Remarks
Customs & Excise	357	Strikes by computer, customs and other staff at Southend Computer Centre (308); Manchester Betting Duty Office (43); Glasgow Betting Duty Office (3); 1 VAT Office Staff.
Ministry of Defence	560	Strikes by computer and other staff at dockyards, RN stores depots, RN armaments depots, Clyde Submarine Base, Royal Ordnance Factories, Feltham and Taunton (Mapping), Bath.
Environment/Transport	55	EOs and Senior Data Processors at DVLC.
Dept. of Health and Social Security	473	230 staff on strike at Newcastle computer centre; 11 staff at North Fylde central Accounts Office; staff at Reading Computer Centre (58), Livingston Computer Centre (60), and Washington Computer Centre (100). Medicines Division DHSS HQ (3) Local office staff (11)
Inland Revenue	255	Staff on strike at Shipley and Cumbernauld computer centres; staff at various Collection Offices. (472 TRDs)

Department	Number on strike	Remarks
Paymaster General's Office	43	Strike by 28 computer staff affecting pension payments; 12 in Finance Branch, disrupting Government banking transactions; 3 telephonists.
Property Services Agency	39	Strikes by maintenance engineers at RAF Brawdy, Pendine, Aberporth, St Athans, Treccwn, Cardiff DWO & Cumbernauld.
Depts. of Trade and Industry	153	Strike by staff who handle search facilities at Companies House, London and Cardiff; telephonists at Cardiff.
Scottish Courts Administration	235	Strike by staff at Edinburgh and Glasgow Sheriff Courts.
ECGD	5	Post room staff
MAFF	13	Staff at Guildford Computer Centre.
Employment	521	8 Computer staff at Reading and 7 staff in the Statistics Branch, Watford 505 UBO staff.
Ordnance Survey	1	1 Filmsetter Operator
Welsh Office	25	Mail sorting staff, paperkeepers and messengers at Cathays Park, CO in Finance Division, 1 member of Staff at Aberystrwyth
TOTAL	4989	