

PRIME MINISTER

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M.S. In the right direction, at least. MAP 22/4

CIVIL SERVICE NUMBERS

We have now received reports from all departments of their numbers of permanent staff in post at 1 April 1980. The total is 705,100. This is 2,700 less than at 1 January and 27,200 below the 1 April 1979 figure.

The major reductions in the last quarter have been in:

Defence	2,200
PSA (incl. Supplies Division)	800
Employment Group	700
Inland Revenue	700
Customs and Excise	200

The most significant increases were in:

DHSS	+ 800	Mainly recruitment of fraud investigation staff
Home Office	+ 400	Mainly prison staff
Royal Ordnance Factories	+ 200	Industrial staff to meet production requirements

Most departments have continued or reimposed restrictions on recruitment in anticipation of the additional reductions in manpower costs to be achieved in 1980-81.

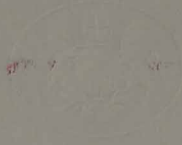
The reduction of 27,000 is the largest in real terms (ie excluding the effect of machinery of government changes) made in any year since the late 1950s.

I propose to quote the figure tomorrow, Wednesday, in reply to Oral Questions and I am having an appropriate press release prepared.

I am copying this to Angus Maude.

P.C.

PAUL CHANNON
22 April 1980



22 APR 1961

