



CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT
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Sir Ian Bancroft G.C.B.
Head of the Home Civil Service

28 May 1981

T Lankester Esq
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Dear Tim,

INDUSTRIAL ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

There are now 4,579 staff involved in selective strike action, including 465 on TRD. Action continues at major departmental computer centres (Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, DHSS, MOD, PGO, SO and MAFF) and the Department of Employment computer at Reading is now affected, although the action there will not prevent the payment of unemployment benefit. Details of all the action and the numbers involved are shown in the attached Annex. The Council of Civil Service Unions yesterday decided in favour of the continuance of selective action which will be extended into other areas, including possibly the payment of social security and unemployment benefits. Further general action involving all members remains on the agenda.

Other developments are summarised below.

CAA : The present action by Air Traffic Controllers (which is today concentrated on Heathrow and Gatwick) is due to end this week, after which there will be a ballot to decide whether or not it should be resumed. There are some indications that support for further action is reducing.

DVLC : Nitrogen has been successfully delivered to the site and the computer was re-started, but a walk-out by 23 Senior Data Processors is causing problems and local management are considering contingency plans. The Centre has sufficient work for a week.

FCO : Action continues to affect the issue of passports at London, Peterborough, Glasgow, Liverpool and Belfast which are still only able to provide a service for personal callers. There has been some media coverage of contingency arrangements to enable most intending travellers to set out on their holidays. The Post Office is concerned about the large backlog of mail it is holding for Passport Offices and arrangements are being made for the mail to be transferred to a temporary store.

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DTI : A limited search service is now being provided at Cardiff since the messengers have returned to work, although the micro-fiche system is still out of action.

MOD : There are signs that action may be spreading to the Meteorological Office where some staff supported the Air Traffic controllers at Heathrow, Manchester, Prestwick and Edinburgh last week.

Customs and Excise : Staff at London Warehouses and Distilleries returned to work, except for 13 staff at Three Mills Bonded Warehouse.

Copies go as before.

Yours ever,

Jeremy

J G COLMAN
Private Secretary

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SELECTIVE ACTION BY NON-INDUSTRIAL CIVIL SERVANTS

SUMMARY OF POSITION - 27 MAY 1981

Department	Number on strike	Remarks
Customs & Excise	442	Strikes by computer, customs and other staff at Southend Computer Centre; Three Mills Warehouse; South Coast Ports; Manchester Betting Duty Office.
Ministry of Defence	817	Strikes by computer and other staff at 4 dockyards, 4 RN stores depots, 2 RN armaments depots, Clyde Submarine Base, Feltham and Taunton (Mapping), Bath, Oil Fuel Depots, REME Longmoor
Environment/Transport	29	Senior Data Processors at DVLC; Driving examiners at Manchester.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	289	Passport Examiners at the London, Liverpool, Peterborough, Belfast and Glasgow Passport Offices.
Dept. of Health and Social Security	240	230 staff on strike at Newcastle computer centre; 10 staff at North Fylde central Accounts Office.
Home Office	6	Staff at Exeter Prison
Inland Revenue	2207	Staff on strike at Shipley, Cumbernauld and Worthing computer centres; staff at various Collection Offices. (1742 on strike, 465 TRD)
Paymaster General's Office	27	Strike by 12 computer staff; 12 in Finance Branch, disrupting Government banking transactions; telephonists.
Property Services Agency	59	Strikes by maintenance engineers at RAF Brawdy, Pendine, Aberporth, Yeovilton St Athans, Trowen, Cardiff DWO, Swansea DWO (picketing DVLC) & Cumbernauld.

Departments	Number on strike	Remarks
Depts. of Trade and Industry	163	Strike by staff who handle search facilities at Companies House, London and Cardiff; telephonists at Cardiff
Scottish Office	25	Staff at the Scottish Computer Centre and 1 CPSA member involved in organising industrial action.
Scottish Courts Administration	235	Strike by staff at Edinburgh and Glasgow Sheriff Courts.
Registers of Scotland	11	Strike by Administrative staff.
MAFF	17	Staff at Guildford Computer Centre.
Employment	12	Computer staff at Reading
TOTAL	4579	