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*Type for PM PL
MAD*

27 June 1980

Dear Nick

APPOINTMENT TO COMPARABILITY COMMISSION

I attach a draft letter for the Prime Minister to send to Mr Parry Rogers, confirming his appointment to the Comparability Commission. I also attach a Press Notice which your Press Office might consider issuing as soon as Mr Rogers has received the Prime Minister's letter, and some answers to possible questions. Ideally, an announcement should be made on 1 July, when the appointment starts.

*Yours sincerely
John Anderson.*

J ANDERSON
Private Secretary

T G P Rogers Esq MA FBIM CIPM AMIPR
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I am writing to thank you for agreeing to serve as a member of the Standing Commission on Pay Comparability and to confirm your appointment. I am sorry that it has not been possible to finalise the arrangements earlier. The appointment will run from 1 July 1980 and can be terminated subject to three months' notice on either side.

Full details of the conditions of the appointment will be sent to you shortly by the Department of Employment who will be happy to deal with any immediate queries you may have. The Commission's secretariat is provided by the Office of Manpower Economics; and the Commission's Secretary is Mr David Brown who, I understand, will be contacting you soon about your work on the Commission.

Draft Press Notice

APPOINTMENT TO STANDING COMMISSION ON PAY COMPARABILITY

The Prime Minister ~~has today~~ ^{yesterday} appointed Mr Parry Rogers as a member of the Standing Commission on Pay Comparability, to assist the Commission with its current work. Mr Rogers is Personnel Director of the Plessey Company.

July 1980

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Standing Commission on Pay Comparability was set up in March 1979 to examine the terms and conditions of employment of groups of workers referred to it by the Government, and to report in each case on the possibility of establishing acceptable bases of comparison. It has issued reports on a number of groups including Local Authority manual workers, nurses and midwives and teachers.

2. The Chairman of the Commission is Professor Hugh Clegg, former professor of Industrial Relations at Warwick University, now Research Fellow there with the title of Professor. The other members are:

Mr Peter Gibson - retired, former Director of Personnel and Administration at BP Oil Ltd;

Professor Joan Mitchell - Professor of Political Economy at the University of Nottingham;

Mr Harry Urwin - Deputy General Secretary of the TGWU and member of the MSC and ACAS Council.

3. There have been vacancies on the Commission since the resignation of Sir Leslie Williams and Sir William Ryland in April. ^{1/4}The appointment is part-time. Remuneration will be £2,250 a year.

4. Mr Rogers is Personnel Director of the Plessey Company Ltd and Director of other companies in the Plessey Group. He has been a member of the Employment Appeal Tribunal since 1978.

5. The Commission has 13 outstanding references to complete.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS TO NO 10 PRESS OFFICE

Does this appointment signify that the Government has decided to retain the Commission in the long term?

The Commission has a number of outstanding references to complete. The Government has the future of the Commission under review. There are no present plans to make further references to the Commission.

Will the Government appoint a new Chairman when Professor Clegg leaves at the end of September?

It is too early to say. The Government has not yet reached a decision about the future of the Commission.

Why has the Government not appointed a trade unionist to replace Sir Leslie Williams?

The Government has so far been unable to find a suitable trade unionist who is available to serve on the Commission. (For Press Office information only - Mr Harry Urwin, the other trade unionist on the Commission, has given notice of his resignation from 31 August. This is not publicly known and should not be divulged.)

Remaining references

The Commission has outstanding references on the following groups of workers:-

Ambulance Officers

University technicians

University teachers

Local authority electricians (Scotland)

Local authority building and civil engineering employees (Scotland)

Local authority plumbers (Scotland)

Local authority electricians (England and Wales)

Local authority building trade operatives (England and Wales)

Scottish local authority chief officials

Justices' clerks' assistants (outside inner London)

New towns staff

How long does the appointment last?

The appointment can be terminated subject to three months' notice on either side.

