

Prime Minister 1 7

Ref. A083/1217
PRIME MINISTER

CF
9.15 on Thursday 5th ch. 3/15



TRIA Peter Grogan

Review Body Reports

Yes - urgently attached.

Agree to a meeting including Mr Tebbitt and Lord Hailsham?

Handling of Review Body Reports

MCS 29/4

I undertook to let you have advice on the handling of the Review Body reports. You already have three reports: those of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB), the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body (DDRB) and the Top Salaries Review Body (TSRB) on the Higher Civil Service, senior Service officers and the judiciary. The remaining report, that of the TSRB on MPs and Ministers, will be delivered to you (and to no-one else) today or, at latest, tomorrow.

2. So far the handling of the reports has been influenced by the consultations on the pay offer to the non-industrial Civil Service. The evidence now is that the tide of opinion among union membership is running firmly in favour of acceptance. By Tuesday of next week any ballots and consultations are likely to have been completed, and the Treasury hope to have received notification of acceptance from the Council of Civil Service Unions before Thursday 5 May, as the unions know that this is the last date for getting the increase implemented in monthly pay at the end of May.

3. I therefore suggest that you should convene an ad hoc meeting of the following small group of Ministers on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week, to discuss how best to handle the publication of and decisions on these reports, both generally and in relation to the political timetable:

- Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Secretary of State for Defence
- Secretary of State for Social Services
- Lord President of the Council

The Lord Chancellor has a claim to be invited, because of the TSRB recommendations involving the judiciary. Another possible addition is the Secretary of State for Employment. You will probably, however, wish to keep this initial meeting to the absolute minimum.



4. I believe you have already provided the Secretary of State for Defence with the AFPRB report and the Secretary of State for Social Services with the DDRB report. I suggest that the Chancellor should have the TSRB report on the Higher Civil Service etc (if he has not already seen it) and also the AFPRB and DDRB reports before the meeting. You may prefer not to release any copy of the TSRB report on MPs and Ministers before the meeting. In addition to letting you have a brief for the meeting, we could provide you with a short note summarising the key recommendations in all four reports which might be handed round at the meeting as a basis for the discussion and collected afterwards.

now
sent to
him
MCS 29/4

5. Final decisions of substance on the four reports will have to be taken ultimately by the Cabinet. The earliest regular meeting at which this would be practicable would be Thursday 12 May. We are already tentatively planning that that meeting might be required to take final decisions on local government organisation and finance (rates, future of GLC and Metropolitan Counties, ILEA, and the draft White Paper on the London Regional Transport Authority). It would be far from ideal to have to take decisions on the Review Body reports at the same time, but much will depend on how quickly you wished to clear the decks. In the case of MPs' pay the Government would have to table proposals for approval by the House of Commons and there would need to have been prior consultations beforehand with leading members of the Opposition parties. If it is thought necessary to complete this process before the date on which a decision to hold a June Election would have to be announced, the Cabinet cannot defer decisions on the Review Body reports beyond 12 May.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

28 April 1983



OFFICE OF MANPOWER ECONOMICS

22 KINGSWAY
LONDON WC2B 6JY

Telephone 01-405 5944

CONFIDENTIAL

29 April 1983

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister

REVIEW BODY ON TOP SALARIES

I enclose the Review Body's report on parliamentary pay and allowances. The report is in two volumes. Volume 1 contains our recommendations; and Volume 2 a series of surveys and studies which formed part of the evidence we took into account for the review.

Yours sincerely
Edwin Plowden

PLOWDEN, CHAIRMAN
REVIEW BODY ON TOP SALARIES



10 DOWNING STREET

MCS

in folder
attached
tape.

We have two copies
of the report, copies
to Nick Owen?

July

No

Mus



OFFICE OF MANPOWER ECONOMICS

22 KINGSWAY
LONDON WC2B 6JY

Telephone 01-405 5944

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

Last year 5%

30 March 1983

+6.9% on average.

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Prime Minister

No copies circulated
and no-one informed
for the time being.

REVIEW BODY ON TOP SALARIES

I enclose our Sixth Report on Top Salaries, containing our recommendations on the salary levels that we consider to be appropriate for implementation from 1 April 1983 for senior civil servants, senior officers in the armed forces, and the judiciary.

MES 30/3

We shall be submitting our report on Parliamentary pay and allowances, as planned, by 30 April.

Yours sincerely
Edwin Plowden

PLOWDEN, CHAIRMAN
REVIEW BODY ON TOP SALARIES