

Prime Minister 2
Defence
WH
29/7



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28th July 1982

Alan White,

As you know, the Prime Minister recently approved my Secretary of State's proposal to announce the firm plans to close the National Defence College at Latimer after 1983 and to transfer the joint Service staff course to the Royal Naval College at Greenwich where there is spare capacity. That announcement, you will recall, had, along with others, been held back while the Falklands operation was going on.

Ministers here have been considering the timing of announcements of other closures or redeployments, some of which are now well overdue. The next establishment to be affected is RAF Scampton, following the withdrawal of the Vulcans from the Station. It is now proposed to transfer the Red Arrows Acrobatic Team from RAF Kemble to this Station around the end of the year. Next year, the Trade Management Training Unit (which is a new unit to enhance RAF NCO training for Ground Crew personnel) will be formed at Scampton. We propose to move the Central Flying School from RAF Leeming later in 1983 or early in 1984. It is also planned that Tornado F2 Third Line Radar Servicing will be set up at RAF Scampton in 1984. If all these deployments go ahead, long term prospects for the Station look promising although some jobs, about 20 in all of which the majority are industrials, are likely to be lost and a small number of these may have to be made redundant.

I have mentioned RAF Scampton in some detail only to give some idea of the sort of reasons for changes affecting MOD establishments. On the assumption, however, that you would not want similar details on other changes, I am, on my Secretary of State's instructions, attaching for the Prime Minister's information a schedule of the changes which are likely to be made over the coming months.

In those cases where Members of Parliament have been particularly interested in the future of a local establishment or where a sizeable number of redundancies or other difficulties are likely to occur the Minister concerned here will normally write to the MP

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W F S Rickett Esq

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setting out the reasons and putting the changes into context. This worked well in the case of Latimer and Greenwich when Sir Ian Gilmour and John Cartwright were kept fully informed, and, so far as RAF Scampton is concerned, Mr Jerry Wiggin has written to, and yesterday had a very satisfactory meeting with, Sir Marcus Kimball MP.

Yours ever

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Serial (a)	Service Establishment (b)	Date and type of announcement (c)	Date of closure/ redeployment (d)	Staff Numbers Affected (e)	Remarks (f)
1 Army	Junior Soldiers Company Milton Bridge	Local announce- ment made on 3 March 1982	See remarks	33	A small enclave will almost certainly be retained for DTA&C training requirements. The need for the remainder of the camp will not be known until the recommendations of the Groom Study (due to report in early 1983) have been studied.
2 RAF	RAF Nocton Hall Hospital	As soon as possible. Final	31 March 1983	140 job losses	It is necessary to make the announcement as soon as possible so that redundancy notices may be issued. The announcement will confirm that the hospital will close by 31 March 1983 as was announced on 18 July 1980. Facility being passed to USAF for use as a wartime hospital; no peacetime USAF use.
3 RAF	RAF Scampton	Preliminary, as soon as possi- ble	Redeployment of Red Arrows late 1982, early 1983. Introduc- tion of Trade Management Training early to mid' 1983	Up to 80 See remarks	The Central Flying School at RAF Leeming is being considered for deployment to RAF Scampton but the plan depends on RAF Leeming being chosen as a Tornado base. Air Force Board decision expected shortly. Final announcement to be made in Autumn 1982.

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(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
4 RAF	RAF Hendon and RAF Stanbridge	Preliminary as soon as possible	The move of the Joint Service Air Trooping Centre by September 1985. The move of the Supply Control Centre by end 1987 (phased move starting mid 1986)	At Hendon about 35 of the present strength of 49 in the JSATC and 150 of the SCC , (of which about 80 are mobile grades) will be affected. At Stanbridge there will be about 34 job losses by mid 1983 leaving a staff of 14 until the JSATC arrives in 1985 when the total will in- crease to about 60. Station strength will rise to about 220 when the Supply	The preliminary announcement is intended to contain a decision to transfer the Red Arrows from RAF Kemble towards the end of 1982, and the formation of Trade Management Training in 1983. Tornado F2 radar servicing to be set up at RAF Scampton in 1984. Consideration is being given to other units moving to RAF Scampton. 80 the present staff of 140 may lose their jobs if no other units deploy to Scampton.

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(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
5 Army	Junior Soldiers Battalion Norton Manor Camp, Taunton	As soon as possible	Mid 1983	Control Centre transfer is completed in 1987.	The preliminary announcement will concern the proposed move of the Joint Service Air Trooping Centre and Supply Control from RAF Hendon to RAF Stanbridge. Final announcements of redeployment plans will be made in September to October 1982.
6 Army	Prince Maurice Barracks Devizes	As soon as possible	See remarks	See remarks	There is a possibility that 40 Commando Royal Marines may take over. This is one of a number of different options for the future accommo- dation of the Commando considered in a recently completed PSA feasibility study, which CGRM is now examining. There is a need to make the local announcement as soon as possible to secure economies and dispel rumours at camp.
			See remarks	See remarks	The move of 9 Ordnance Battalion to Corsham and associated moves could result in up to about 20 redundancies at Blackdown Barracks, Deepcut but no net loss of jobs. The camp at Devizes will be demolished and the site retained until

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(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
7 RAF	RAF Bawtry RAF Upavon RAF Northwood and RAF Bentley Priory	Final announce- ment August 1982.	Minor changes from August 1982, transfer of 1 Group HQ from RAF Bawtry to RAF Upavon 1st January 1984 is the target date	About 70 in total	The plan for the future rebuild of Tidworth is complete. Only one building will be vacated at Blackdown Barracks and this will be reallocated. The final announcement will refer to the previous announcement on 30 March 1982 and will confirm closure of RAF Bawtry and transfer of 1 Group HQ to RAF Upavon. It will also confirm that other units at RAF Bawtry will be transferred to other RAF stations and that RAF Bawtry will close by 1 January 1984. The first move affecting No 1 Group is the transfer of RAF Wyton to No 18 Gp in August/September. Of the 70 staff affected 46 are on station staffing at RAF Bawtry and about 23 on HQ 1 Gp Staffing. There will be minor staffing implications at other stations

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(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
8 RAF	RAF Chessington and RAF Headley Court	Final announcement October 1982	From end of March 1985	About 42 job losses expected	The announcement will confirm the previous announcement on 22nd April 1977. And the decision to close Chessington and merge operation with Headley Court. Subject to Air Force Board approval works services are expected to start at Hedley Court in October 1982 and should be completed by the end of 1984. There is a possible Army interest in Chessington. This will be followed up before any announcement is made.
9 RAF	RAF Scampton and RAF Leeming	Preliminary announcement Autumn 1982	Late 1983	Additional 72 jobs at RAF Scampton to increase staff level to about 132. Job losses at RAF Leeming could be as high as 197 if station were put on a care and mainten- ance basis until the late 1980s when the Tornado aircraft deploy there.	The preliminary announcement will announce the proposed transfer of Central Flying School to Scampton late in 1983 and state that consideration is being given to the future use of the station. The date of the announcement is dependent on the Air Force Board's decision on Tornado F2 deployments to RAF Leeming. Possibility of saving additio- nal jobs at RAF Scampton depend on compatibility of grade/skills available. Final announcement should be made by about the end of 1982/

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(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
10 Army	Ordnance Stores and Disposal Depot Ruddington	Announcement intended by Autumn 1982	August 1983	84 to 94	early 1983. Closure planned for August 1983, followed by alienation unless interest in the site is expressed by another service. Timing of announcement dependent on an announcement about future of associated REME detachment (dependent in turn on Serial 11 below).
11 Army	38 Central Workshop REME - Chilwell	By Autumn 1982	See remarks	863	Closure likely to be proposed by review of REME Static Workshops due to report by end of June. Timescales dependent upon decisions taken as a result of these recommendations, but announcements intended by the Autumn.. No alternative use is foreseen and the site will be alienated unless another service expresses interest in it.
12 Army	33 Central Workshop REME - Newark	See remarks	See remarks	178	As Serial 11 above.

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(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
13 Army	Junior Leaders Regiment, Old Park Barracks, Dover	Before the end of the year	1983	147	The barracks will be retained in the Army estate, but the future occupants will not be decided until after the Groom Study has been completed. The present unit will close in 1983 and an announcement will need to be made before the end of the year.
14 Army	Army Youth Selection Centres in Harrogate (North) and Deepcut (South)	Well before September 1983	September 1983	26	Notification to OGDs's MP's and consultations with Trades Unions to be completed well before proposed target closure date of September 1983. Closures will enable Recruit Selection to be centralised at Regional Youth Selection Centres, Sutton Coldfield. The other two centres may then be alienated.
15 Army	Army Cataloguing Authority - Woolwich and Subsidiary Locations	See remarks	See remarks	118	Not a closure, but significant manpower reductions from a workforce of 340.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
16	HQ Director of Army Education	See remarks	See remarks	See remarks	Moves from Empress State Building to co-locate with the Institute of Army Education at Eltom Palace SE9. No net loss of jobs, but possibly a few redundancies caused by the move. Although Government Departments will continue to occupy Empress State Building

Note 1: Bearing in mind the wide range of announcements already made in 1981 and earlier this year in the case of the Royal Navy, there is little to add. Head of DS15(L) will be reporting on all the possible indications of the current study of a future Defence School of Music for the future Service presence at Royal Marine Barracks Deal and Eastney. There is also the continuing problem on the Royal Naval Hospital Stonehouse and the prospect of some form of future announcement, although this will almost certainly not be made until 1983.

Note 2: Preliminary announcements are the first intimation which local MP, local authorities, and the Trades Union side receive at a particular closure or deployment is being proposed. The Trades Union side is given a minimum of 28 days within which to comment on the proposal. The final announcement confirms MOD's decision to go ahead with a closure or redeployment by a specific date.