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PRIME MINISTER

Review Body Reports

We have now received the reports on Nurses, Professions Allied to Medicine, and the Armed Forces. That on Doctors and Dentists is due next week - the Chairman of the Review Body, Sir Robert Clark, is abroad. We have acknowledged publicly, through a PQ in the case of the Nurses, that the Government has received the reports and that they will be dealt with in the normal way. This should be interpreted as meaning that Ministers will consider the reports and, following Cabinet discussion, you will announce the Government's decisions, a process which is likely to take a number of weeks. The TSRB report is not due until early June.

The Findings

The background to the AFPRB report is on pages 1-4 and the recommendations on pages 31-32. The total addition to the pay bill is 7.06%.

The background to the report on Nurses is on page 1-5 and the recommendations on pages 25-31. The average addition to the pay bill is 8.6%.

The background to the report on PAMs is on pages 1-5 and the recommendations on pages 23-25. The recommended addition to the pay bill is 12.1%.

All the reports display greater variability between grades than last year.

Administrative Arrangements

So far only Peter Gregson has a copy of the reports. We suggest the following sequence:-

- i) When you have seen the reports, one copy should be

sent to the sponsor Minister and one to the Chancellor with instructions that they should be retained in Private Offices and shown only to the Permanent Secretary, plus Mr. Kemp in the case of the Treasury.

- ii) A meeting of Ministers has been arranged for 9 May. In theory it is possible that the first three reports could go to Cabinet on 16 May, with announcement immediately thereafter. More plausible is Cabinet on 23 May permitting announcement just before the Whitsun Recess, or as last year, immediately after the Recess i.e. 7 June.

As last year I have arranged for the reports to be printed in the FCO press under secure conditions. I propose to send a copy of each report to them at the same time as they are circulated to Ministers to be set up but not run off until further instructions are given.

Agree these arrangements?

TSRB

The TSRB is running 5 or 6 weeks behind the rest for two reasons:-

- i) Approximately every 3 years the TSRB looks not just at the appropriate increases in salaries but at salary levels. This is a more time consuming process. It was last done in 1981-82.
- ii) At the Government's request the TSRB is investigating whether there should be differentiation of the pay of Permanent Secretaries based on job weight.

There is no reason to conceal that the TSRB report is running behind the rest. In answer to questions we could say

D.R.

it is expected around the start of June. If asked why it is delayed I think it would be better to emphasise the job weighting of Permanent Secretaries rather than the more fundamental review, though this was trailed in last year's report. To emphasise the more fundamental review might create a presumption that the Government would find it more difficult to reject or amend the findings. Finally, we could be asked whether late arrival of the TSRB report will delay Ministerial consideration of the other reports. In practise the link between the TSRB groups and the others is not all that strong and in 1983 the others were settled before the election and the TSRB groups after. The PQ today stated that the report on Nurses will be looked at "in the normal way" implying no special delay.

Agree that if asked we say that there is no reason to expect consideration of the other reports to be especially delayed by the late arrival of the TSRB report?

Yes mt. AT

22 April 1985

1984 TIMETABLE FOR REVIEW BODY REPORTS

First week of April

Nurses and others received

Third week of April

Armed Forces)
Doctors and Dentists) all
Top Salaries (19th)) received

All reports shown to Prime Minister on 19th April.

24 April - reports circulated as follows with Prime Minister's approval:

Nurses	Ch/Ex and SoS DHSS (if not sent already)
D & D	Ch/Ex SoS DHSS
TSRB	Ch/Ex Ld Chancellor SoS MOD
Armed Forces	Ch/Ex SoS MOD

Copies of all reports sent to P. Gregson about this time (AT's note does not specify a date).

Reports are also sent to Policy Unit in time for them to prepare brief for ministerial meeting.

3 May Ministerial meeting to discuss reports.
(Lord President of the Council, Ld Chancellor, Ch/Ex, SoS MOD, SoS DHSS, SoS Emp, Lord Gowrie, Robert Armstrong, P Gregson).

Subsequent meetings.

4 June AT writes to HMSO to confirm phone call telling them likely date of publication and distribution.

5 June PQ put down in evening.

7 June Cabinet decision.
Around 11.00/11.30 when decision has been taken, AT rings HMSO to authorise distribution under embargo to Vote Office, Printed Paper Office, No.10 Press office.

Other copies for Departments sent to No.10 for forwarding.

Embargoed copies to HMSO bookshops.

Copies immediately to Office of Manpower Economics.

Between Cabinet decision and announcement RTA informs Lord Plowden of recommendation, MOD and DHSS tell their chairmen.

Approx. 15.30 hrs Command Papers are laid;
PQ answered;
Reports released.

B, R.

After: AT writes to thank HMSO Press.

PM writes to thank Review Body chairmen, [redacted] (drafts from the Departments.)

SECRET

FILE: C 8 JA



be Mr. Cresson

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 April 1985

I enclose copies of the Review Body Reports on Armed Forces, Nurses and Midwives, and Professions Allied to Medicine. The Report on Doctors and Dentists will follow next week. These should be handled under secure conditions. I would be grateful if you could set these Reports up in type. The Office of Manpower Economics will undertake the proof reading. Could you contact Chris Wright to make the arrangements.

I cannot predict exactly when the Reports will be published. Theoretically this could be as early as 16 May but it is more likely to be Thursday 23 May or, as last year, the first Thursday after the Whitsun Recess, i.e. 6 June. I will give you further guidance as soon as I can.

(Andrew Turnbull)

R. Gear, Esq.,
HMSO Press.

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10 DOWNING STREET

Andrew

TSRB Reports

I have spoken to
Charlotte about when
they were sent to
HM SO last year - she
recollects it was around
the weekend of 26/27
May ie 2 weeks to
10 days before
publication.

Nicky 18/4.

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1. Ms Roche
2. CF to BIF
29/3

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Spoke to Mr Gregson
- on 1 April + said AT
would be in contact in
a fortnight or so.
NR114

REVIEW BODIES

I spoke to Mr. Frank Gregson, HMSO (219 4271) and Mr. Ron Gair, Foreign Office Press (233 3109) about the printing arrangements for the Review Body Reports. I told them we were extremely satisfied with last year's arrangements which had combined security with economy in printing. I hoped to be able to repeat the arrangements this year though it was likely that one of the reports (TSRB) could run behind the others,

Mr. Gair said the FCO Press was moving to Nine Elms. He hoped to use June and July for training for the new facilities. It would be helpful to him, therefore, if the printing of the Reports could be authorised rather earlier than last year.

We agreed to discuss this further when the timetable for the reports was clearer. I agreed to contact him at the end of March.

AT

8 February 1985**CONFIDENTIAL**