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From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



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John Holmes Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

① "Howell James
by fax
(in case this
comes up -
unlikely tho'
this may be)

② Back file
John
24/4

24 April 1997

PB
Ce/JH

AA
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File
John
24/4.

Dear John,

**HAYES REVIEW OF STAFF DEPLOYMENT IN THE NORTHERN IRELAND
CIVIL SERVICE**

When we spoke yesterday I mentioned that Dr Maurice Hayes had completed his review of the way in which staff had been deployed in the Departments of Agriculture and Economic Development in Northern Ireland. My Secretary of State has concluded that the report should be published this afternoon and that the response should be in his name. I attach a copy of that response. The report fully vindicates Baroness Denton, who has responsibility for DANI and DED, but identifies a number of areas where there is scope for improvement in Civil Service procedures.

Our judgement is that while it may have some political impact locally, it is unlikely to become a major issue in national terms. We do not therefore believe that there is any serious danger in publishing it during a general election campaign.

HOLMES/WKL/BB

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My Secretary of State does not propose to answer any further questions, though Baroness Denton is issuing a parallel personal statement, a copy of which I also attach.

A copy of this letter goes to Jan Polley in Sir Robin Butler's office.

Yours ever,

Ken
W K LINDSAY

HOLMES/WKL/BB