



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

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1 Mr Patten to Press Office
2 Prime Minister 2

PRIME MINISTER

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This experimental census in
Leeds will be announced
on Wednesday 7 April

ETHNIC MONITORING IN THE CIVIL SERVICE

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I should like to report to you how things have been moving on this front, and how our plans now stand.

As you will recall, Willie Whitelaw announced in the House of Commons on 10 December (during the debate on the Scarman Report) that we accepted the need for the Government to give a lead to other employers on the policy of ethnic monitoring, and would accept the recommendations of the Select Committee on Home Affairs in support of ethnic monitoring in the Civil Service. He went on to say that I would set up a survey of the ethnic composition of some non-industrial grades in a limited area in order to establish a sound statistical method for monitoring in the Civil Service.

Since then, my officials have discussed this proposal with departments, the Civil Service unions and the Commission for Racial Equality, and - having settled upon the area covered by the Leeds City Council as the geographical location - with the Leeds Community Relations Council. Detailed arrangements and briefing are now in hand in preparation for an announcement to staff in Leeds on Wednesday 7 April, that the survey of the ethnic origin of staff in post will be held on Wednesday 19 May. There will be a parallel survey of job applicants from school leavers (to be confirmed, but probably May-July).

The survey will not cover the main middle management grades as the SCPS, the union concerned, had a Conference decision in 1980 against monitoring (although the union Executive is in favour, and hopes to have that decision reversed next year). The survey will however cover some mobile grades represented by the IRSF and the CSU.

On 7 April, having told the staff, my officials, with a representative of the Home Office, and supported by union leaders and the Chairman of the Leeds Community Relations Council, will hold a Press Conference in Leeds. There will also be an MPO press release in London. I will also have written in advance to Members of Parliament whose constituencies include the Leeds City Council area, and to the Lord Mayor of Leeds, seeking their general support.

I am copying this minute to Willie Whitelaw, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Baroness Young

BARONESS YOUNG

1 April 1982

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