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FILE TITLE: <i>Policy Presentation</i>		SERIES <i>GOVERNMENT MACHINERY</i>
		PART: <i>27</i>
PART BEGINS: <i>3 April 2001</i>	PART ENDS: <i>7 JUNE 2001</i>	CAB ONE:

part closed

LABOUR ADMINISTRATION

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PART

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DATE CLOSED	7 JUNE 2001
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Series : **GOVERNMENT MACHINERY**

File Title : **POLICY PRESENTATION**

Part : **27**

Date	From	To	Subject	Class	Secret
06/04/2001	SOC	PM	Current Issues : 6 April 2001	C	0
10/04/2001	DETR	PPS	DETR Events	R	0
12/04/2001	DTI	PS/SOC	Major issues for the DTI in the next month	C	0
26/04/2001	SOC	PM	Current Issues : 26 April 2001	C	0
27/04/2001	SCU	PM	Provisional Business	U	0
04/05/2001	Research	PM	Business	R	0
04/05/2001	SOC	PM	Current Issues: 7 May 2001	C	0
08/05/2001			Machinery of Government Changes	C	0
24/05/2001	FCO	SCU	Forward planning and contribution to No. 10 grid	U	0



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

Telephone: 020 7

JS

cc: AW
MT

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24 May 2001

Paul Brown
SCU
10 Downing Street
London

Dear Paul,

David Shaw and I have taken advantage of the quiet election period to look at how we do our forward planning, both internally and as a contribution to your grid. I am glad to see from your e-mail to John Sawers that you regard David as effective. I had no doubt that he would be, having long known him as an effective journalist. I always hoped that his nose for news would be an asset in the job. But this is the first time that he and I have had a chance to look at the methods we inherited to see if we can improve them.

I attach a new, simplified grid which David and I have designed. Our aim is to put on the first page only those events, meetings, or issues likely to make news. The second page gives a more detailed guide to what events are happening, not all of which will attract media attention.

The main problem with the way the grid has been done in the past is that the day-by-day guide does not capture the tendency for foreign policy issues to bubble just beneath the media surface, then suddenly break into the bulletins and newspapers. It is not so hard to predict what issues are likely to receive coverage, but the precise moment when something will trigger that coverage. Therefore, we have cleared out the top line of the new grid to cover the whole week, and will put in those three or four issues which we expect to hit the media at some stage, or perhaps to dominate our whole week. Thus, we are currently dealing with or watching out for media interest on Israel, Macedonia, etc.

Then for each day we list the main stories, which are those predictable events which will be bound to lead to serious media coverage, whether positive or negative. Next week, the NATO Foreign Ministers' meeting has obvious media potential, for instance.

The other lines on the first page list the main events which may make news, for example the Cyprus elections, and other foreign news which is less likely to attract coverage, but which we need to bear in mind. We need to have the main home news on our grid so that we know the domestic media context in which we are working.



Although much of our work is reactive, we devote most of our time in News Department to predicting and preparing for the things we will need to react to. In recent months, I have developed a useful tool for doing this, which we call our News Agenda. The aim is to set down in a series of one line entries everything we think we may find ourselves dealing with for as far ahead as we can see. We can generally get about the month ahead on one side of A4. I am happy to share this with you each week, though you will need to bear in mind that this is a constant work in progress which we update most days of the week. Some of it is guess work, as I would rather take a stab at where the news is coming from than deal only with what we are uncertain about. I attach today's updated News Agenda.

I will be giving this piece of paper higher priority as part of an internal reorganisation, in which the Press Officer who has helped me develop our News Agenda, will now be bringing this together with other work like media monitoring and coordinating Ministerial media bids, in a new role which will I hope further sharpen News Department's focus.

I have talked to David about producing grids for more than one week ahead, and we agree that by using our News Agenda we can introduce a rolling three weekly grid for you.

We will need to take care not to get ourselves locked too tightly into looking for a foreign news story to project each day. This can lead to a hunt for initiatives which either fail to impress the media, or fall apart under scrutiny. I like to think we have improved the Foreign Office's media profile by concentrating ruthlessly on selected priorities and on defusing potential media problems before they happen. Often when confronted with a major foreign story, there are virtues in lying low for a few days and choosing your moment to get involved. David and I will work harder to ensure that you are kept abreast of our tactical approach.

I presume the issue of Foreign Office forward planning has come up because of the Chicken Tikka episode. You will know that this was a political speech which the Special Advisers were supposed to have cleared with No 10. The event itself was on the grid, but of course listing an event is not always a good guide to its news impact. There are obvious limits to how deeply I can become involved in party political events, but since I came to News Department there has been greater coordination between the two wings of the Foreign Office's news operation. You can rest assured that I have underlined the importance of coordinating news management with No 10 since the Chicken Tikka speech and will do so again when our political friends return from the election trail.

I would be happy to talk any of this through with you and David at any time. I am copying this letter to John Sawers.

John Williams
Head of News Department

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FCO GRID
Week 22Sat-Sun
26-27Mon
28Tues
29Weds
30Thur
31Fri
June 1Sat-Sun
2-3

Updated 24/5/01

Main Issues	<u>MEPP – ARAB-ISRAEL: SHARON IN EUROPE?</u>						
	<u>VIOLENCE IN MACEDONIA</u>						
	<u>IRAQ UN RESOLUTION</u>						
	<u>COMMISSION TALKS ON OPEN SKIES?</u>						
	<u>EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DRAFT REPORT ON ECHELON?</u>						
Main News	Clinton 'conflict resolution' speech at Hay-on-Wye Festival (26)	Jospin: Future of Europe speech, Paris	Cook/ Powell: NATO Ministerial on European Defence and Turkey's position, Budapest (29-30) Deadline for Echelon report to European Parl	Queen begins State visit to Norway (30-June 1)	Vote on US/UK Iraq resolution due		
Main Events	OIC Foreign Ministers emergency meet on Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Qatar (tbc) Cyprus elections (27)	Prince William (tbc) to open UK-Mauritus Co-operation Week (28-31)	Conciliation meeting on EU art market sales tax plans (tbc) Graham Parker sentenced for outstaying visa, Malaysia	Austrian Chancellor launches Future of Europe debate			
Main Home News		<u>BANK HOLIDAY</u>	<u>RMT strike, SW Trains</u> Appeal re Soldier Five book on UK Special Forces, New Zealand (29-31)	PM on Question Time Special	CND Forum on NMD, London MoD manpower figs inc poss failure to meet ethnic minority targets BMA mass resignation ballot closes World 'No Tobacco' Day	Foreign submarines visit Faslane Straw on Any Questions Navy team start Greenland climbing expedition	<u>TUBE STRIKE</u> (begins Sun 8pm thru Mon plus Tues nt to Thurs am) (tbc) Trooping the Colour – Major General's Review World Oceans Day (3)
Other Foreign News	Kashmir extended ceasefire due to expire (26) Burma anniversary of elections (27) Monaco Grand Prix, Monte Carlo	Trial Papua indeps movement leaders Annivs Pakistan nuclear tests	Speight committal hearing, Fiji	French M & S chief due in court over store closures China-South Korea air route opens	Austrian Chancellor addresses European financial mkts confs, Vienna US Chief of Staff in India Estrada on graft/perjury charges, Philippines Anniversary Ocalan trial	UK visit by Ruth Cardoso, First Lady of Brazil (1-5) Belarusian legislation enacted on foreign publications	

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Meetings	<p>IATA World Air Transport Summit (27-29)</p> <p>World Orgs on Animal Health, Paris (27-June 1)</p>	<p>Straw: Justice/Home Affs Council, on env crime and common pens for illegal entry, Brussels (28-29)</p> <p>Blackstone: EU Education/Youth Affairs, Brussels</p> <p>European Parl Agric/Rural Affs Cttee, Brussels (28-29)</p> <p>EU Scientific Cttee on Medicinal Products, Brussels</p> <p>EP Economic/Mon Affs Cttee, Brussels (28-29)</p> <p>G 15 Foreign Mins, Jakarta</p> <p>EU-IDEA human rights confs, Sweden (28-29)</p>	<p>EU Scientific Committee on Food, Brussels</p> <p>European Parl fisheries cttee, Brussels</p>	<p>EP plenary, Brussels (30-31)</p> <p>EU Internal Market, Consumer Affs, Tourism Council, Brussels (30-31)</p> <p>Short: EU Dev Ministers, Brussels (30-31)</p> <p>G 15 leaders meet on new technology, Jakarta (30-31)</p>	<p>EU Health Mins, on CJD and alcohol, Brussels</p>	<p>Polish, French, German finance Ministers, Warsaw</p>	
Secretary of State			NATO, Budapest	NATO, Budapest			
Mr Wilson	duty						
Mr Vaz							
Mr Battle		duty	duty	duty	duty		
Baroness Scotland	Return from China						

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FCO GRID
Week 23

Sat-Sun 2-3	Mon 4	Tues 5	Weds 6	Thur 7	Fri 8	Sat-Sun 9-10
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Updated 24/5/01

Main Issues	<p><u>ANNIVERSARY BRIGADIER SAUNDERS MURDER + GREEK TV 'CRIMEWATCH' PROG? + MEMORIAL SERVICE?</u></p> <p><u>COMMISSION DUE TO PUBLISH COMPANY TAX STUDY?</u></p> <p><u>MEPP – ISRAELI PM FOR EU TALKS? ARAFAT TO RUSSIA?</u></p> <p><u>INDIA-PAKISTAN: KASHMIR/ + PAKISTAN TO GET FRENCH MIRAGE JETS (this week?)</u></p>						
Main News		Deadline for agreeing Iraq oil-for-food UN resolution rollover	David Chell appeal against death sentence for drug trafficking, Penang, Malaysia	Extradition verdict on suspect in Turkey murder of Edgar Fernandes, Malta Israeli PM due to attend EU talks		First anniversary Brigadier Stephen Saunders murder Cook: Elliott Lecture speech, Oxford (tbc)	Chirac speech on Missile Defence
Main Events			ECOFIN, on sustainable dev, broad ec guidelines, Luxembourg Commission publish monthly business/consumer survey results World Environment Day	Hoon: NATO Defence Ministers meet on European Defence (6-8) Commission publishes Company Tax harmonisation study (tbc) Prince Saud visits UK/Europe 2 RAF airmen in court on GBH of civilian, Gibraltar		Arafat to Russia (8-10) Russia-NATO meeting, Brussels Queen Regimental Visit to Hanover, Germany	
Main Home News	<u>TUBE STRIKE</u> (begins Sun 8pm thru Mon plus Tues nt to Thurs am) (tbc) Coronation Day Gun Salutes Trooping the Colour – Maj Gen's Review (2) World Oceans Day (3)	<u>TUBE STRIKE</u> Hoon: Chile Defence Minister visits UK		<u>TUBE STRIKE</u> Interest rate decision Beating Retreat – Duke of York	● <u>POLLING DAY</u> Argentine Foreign Min Giavarini in UK (7-8) Beating Retreat – Gen Sir Charles Guthrie	<u>ELECTION RESULT (RESHUFFLE?)</u> Travel/tourism stats for April (Foot and Mouth impact) BMA jnr docs confs	<u>RESHUFFLE?</u> Prescott on Frost (10) Duke of Edinburgh 80 th birthday Trooping the Colour – Colonel's Review (9)

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<p>Other Foreign News</p>	<p>Ex-Taiwan Generals visit China (3)</p>	<p>Annivs Khomeini's death, Iran</p>	<p>French Parly due to ratify Nice Treaty</p> <p>OSCE team visit Cyprus</p>	<p>Greece V England World Cup qualifier</p> <p>Indian/Pakistan Foreign Mins meet at SAARC confs</p> <p>China-Taiwan talks on bilateral investment record (6-7)</p>	<p>Irish referendum on Nice Treaty</p> <p>Confirmation of Italian govt? (7 or 8)</p>	<p>Irish referendum result</p> <p>Iranian Presidential Elections</p>	<p>Malvinas Day, Argentina (10)</p> <p>Mandate for Russian troops in Kosovo due to end (10)</p> <p>Canadian Grand Prix, Montreal</p>
<p>Meetings</p>		<p>European Bank govts meet</p> <p>EU-Brazil Petroleum confs, Oxford</p>	<p>Health Council on alcohol and the young, Brussels</p> <p>EU Internal Market, Consumer Affs, Tourism Ministers, on Community Patent, Public Procurement, Cosmetic s, Duty to Trade Fairly, Food Supps, Mkting Fin Services, Luxembourg</p> <p>EU special Committee on Agriculture, Brussels</p> <p>EU public hearing on Future of Common Fisheries Policy</p> <p>ILO annual conference</p>	<p>First meeting Assc of European Senates, Brussels (tbc)</p> <p>RIIA Chatham House confs: Defeating Crime/Economic Crime (6-7)</p>	<p>Meacher: Environment Council, on waste electronic equipment, Luxembourg (7/8)</p> <p>European Central Bank Councils</p> <p>EU Scientific Committee on Plants, Brussels</p> <p>Experts Meeting on enlargement and Knowledge-based econ (pre-Gothenburg)</p> <p>Afghan Support Group mid-term review, Islamabad (7-8)</p> <p>3rd round Egyptian Shura elections</p>		
<p>Secretary of State</p>							
<p>Mr Wilson</p>							
<p>Mr Vaz</p>							
<p>Mr Battle</p>							
<p>Baroness Scotland</p>		<p>Victoria League Service/lunch</p> <p>Meet FCO Whip Lady Ramsay</p>	<p>Address "Working with Ministers" course, Civil Service College</p> <p>Chief Justice of Bahamas Dame Joan Sawyer</p>				

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FCO GRID
Week 24Sat-Sun
9-10Mon
11Tues
12Weds
13Thur
14Fri
15Sat-Sun
16-17

Updated 24/5/01

Main Issues	<u>BUSH IN EUROPE - DEFENCE MATTERS/ BALKANS/ KYOTO AND CLIMATE, POSS US-EU DECLARATION on MEPP/RUSSIA TALKS</u>						
	<u>SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT IN UK</u>						
	<u>EUROPE: WORKERS' INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION?/GAC/EUROPEAN COUNCIL</u>						
Main News	Chirac speech on Missile Defence	Cook: GAC, Luxembourg (11-12) Oklahoma bomber execution due	Mbeki State visit (12-15) Cook: meeting Lobby Correspondents	Bush visits North Atlantic Council, Brussels + foll by possible speech Warsaw (tbc) Deadline for Lockerbie bomber to submit appeal	EU-US Summit, Gothenburg (prior to European Council)	PM/Cook: European Council, Gothenburg (15-17) + possible US-EU declaration on MEPP	Bush-Putin , Slovenia (16 or 17)
Main Events		EU Employment/social policy Council, Luxembourg (wkrs info and consultation issue due) NATO-WEU Joint Exercise Study		Party of European Socialists, pre-Summit, Gothenburg Int'l Centre-Right parties meet pre-Summit, Sweden (13-14)	Mbeki speech at RIIA		
Main Home News	<u>RESHUFFLE?</u> Prescott on Frost (10) Duke of Edinburgh 80 th birthday Trooping the Colour – Colonel's Review (9)		RAF airmen in court on hoax post bomb charges, N'ampton				QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY (16) + Honours List + Trooping the Colour ceremony Clinical findings of Gulf Veterans' medical checks published
Other Foreign News	Malvinas Day, Argentina (10) Mandate for Russian troops in Kosovo due to end (10) Canadian Grand Prix, Montreal		Philippines President's Special Envoy Cesar Bautista in UK Franco-German summit on enlargement, Freiburg 2 nd annivs NATO ground troops in Kosovo Bulgarians require visiting Russians to have visas from today	EU Troika meet North Korean delegation on human rights Pakistan Foreign Minister Satter to UK	Russian-US joint missile info centre opens, Moscow World Bank executive decision on loan to Pakistan	Queen's Birthday Party in Zimbabwe?	Albania elections (17 or 24) King Simeon contests Bulgarian elections (17) Paris Air Show (16-24) inc poss UK defence and commercial deals UK anti-drugs delegation to China (17-21)

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<p>Meetings</p>		<p>EU Employment/social policy Council, Luxembourg</p> <p>EU Special Agriculture Committee, Brussels (11-12)</p> <p>WHO confs on BSE, Paris (11-14)</p> <p>European Parliament plenary (11-14)</p> <p>Int'l Fed of Journalists World Confs, Seoul (11-15)</p>	<p>EU Scientific Committee on Cosmetic Products</p> <p>EU Scientific Committee on Toxicology and the Env (12-13)</p> <p>Sustainability Confs (EU fringe), Gothenburg (12-18)</p>	<p>EU Committee of the Regions, Brussels (13-14)</p> <p>Int'l Centre-Right parties meet, Sweden (13-14)</p> <p>Int'l Grain Council Confs, London (13-14)</p> <p>Duke of Edinburgh at Pakistan Society dinner</p>	<p>EP President Fontaine hosts delegation of Euromed Ministers (14-15)</p> <p>European Stock Exchanges annual meeting, Paris</p> <p>Mayor's annual confs of European Cities Against Drugs, Belfast (14-15)</p>		
<p>Secretary of State</p>			<p>Pres Arroyo's Special Envoy Meet Lobby Correspondents + lunch with commentators Attend State Banquet</p>	<p>NAC, Brussels</p>	<p>Sth African Foreign Min Dr Zuma</p> <p>PM's lunch with Mbeki</p> <p>PES leaders' meeting, Gothenburg</p>	<p>European Council (15-16)</p>	<p>Return from Gothenburg (16)</p>
<p>Mr Wilson</p>							
<p>Mr Vaz</p>							
<p>Mr Battle</p>			<p>To UNDCP, Vienna (tbc)</p>		<p>UK/Japan confs on Indonesia</p> <p>British-Japanese Parliamentary Group</p>		
<p>Baroness Scotland</p>							

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Updated 24 May 2001

THE NEWS AGENDA

Week Beginning:

21 May

Japan:	Crown Prince official visit	(18-24)
ASEM:	FMs Meeting, Peking	(24-25)
US:	Bush speech to Naval Academy	(25)
Burma:	11th anniversary of elections	(27)

28 May

Echelon:	Deadline for EP report	(29)
NATO:	Ministerial Meeting, Budapest	(29-30)
Norway:	State Visit to Norway	(30 May-1 June)
Europe:	EU Health Ministers meet, CJD	(31)
Kashmir:	Extended ceasefire due to expire	(31)
Europe:	Irish referendum on Nice Treaty	(31)
Iraq:	Vote on US/UK UNSCR?	(31)
Echelon:	Publication of draft EU Parl Report	(end May)

4 June

Iraq:	Deadline for Oil for Food rollover	(4)
Chile:	Visit by Defence Minister?	(4)
Consular:	David Chell appeal in Malaysia	(5)
Europe:	ECOFIN	(5)
Europe:	Jospin "Future of Europe" speech	(5)
FAC:	Evidence on European Council	(5)
Consular:	Edgar Fernandes verdict on extradition	(6)
Greece:	World Cup Qualifier	(6)
Saudi Arabia:	Prince Saud to visit London/Europe	(6)
Argentina:	Visit of Argentine FM Giavarini	(7)
Europe:	Environment, Luxembourg	(7/8)
Afghanistan:	ASG mid-term review, Islamabad	(7-8)
Iran:	Presidential Elections	(8)
Europe:	Chirac speech on Missile Defence	(9)
South Korea:	FM Han to visit US	(early June)
North Korea:	US Policy review published	(early June)

11 June

GAC:	Luxembourg	(11)
Europe:	Info & Consultation decision?	(11)
NATO/WEU:	Joint Exercise Study	(11-15)
South Africa:	State Visit by President Mbeki	(12-15)
Media:	<i>Sofs to see Lobby Correspondents</i>	(12)
Media:	<i>Sandwich lunch with Commentators</i>	(12)
Philippines:	President's Special Envoy Cesar Bautista	(12)
Pakistan:	Visit by FM Satter	(12-13)
NATO:	Bush to visit NATO	(13)
US:	Oklahoma bomber decision?	(13?)
Human Rights:	EU Troika/North Korean delegation	(13)
Pakistan Society Dinner:	Duke of Edinburgh to attend	(13)
Zimbabwe:	Queen's Birthday Party?	(15)
Europe:	European Council, Gothenburg	(15-16)
MEPP:	Pos EU/US declaration	(15-16)
US:	Bush speech in Warsaw	(?)
US/Russia:	Bush-Putin talks	(16 or 17)
Albania:	Parliamentary elections	(17 or 24)

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18 June

Algeria/Tunisia/Morocco: Pos visit by Mr Wilson (18)
 Europe: Statement by PM on European Council (18?)
 Pakistan: FM Satter to visit US (19)
 US: McVeigh executed (first since 1963) (19)
 UK/US: Exchange visit for underprivileged kids (19)
 Russia: Pos visit by SofS (19-21)
 Commons: State Opening of Parliament (20)
 Echelon: EP Committee vote on report (21)
 China: Call by Mr Dai on SofS (21 or 22)
 Commons: Queen's speech debate (22)
 UN: Pos visit by Kofi Annan to London (22)
 UN: SofS to see Kofi Annan (22)

25 June

Consular: Launch of Consular Publcity Campaign (25)
 GAC: Luxembourg (25)
 Saudi Arabia: Visit by Prince Saud (25)
 Zimbabwe: GAC (25)
 Drugs: World Conference on Global Drugs economy (25-26)
 France: PM visit for a working diner (26)
 Europe: Open Skies decision? (Transport Council) (27-28)
 West Africa: Pos visit by SofS & Vedrine (28-30)
 Gibraltar: US Submarine visit (29)
 Intelligence: PRO Conference (29-30)
 FRY: Donors Conference(?) (June)
 Saunders: Anniversary of murder of Col Saunders (? June)
 Saunders: Arch-Bish of Greece mem service (June)
 Germany: Duke of York to visit (Trade Int) (June)
 Europe: EU Workers Rights decisions? (June)
 Bulgaria: General election (June)
 Japan: Poss Battle visit (June)
 Saudi Arabia: Poss visit by Lord Levy? (June)
 Arms: 2000 Report on Strategic Export Controls (June)
 Zimbabwe: Review of EU dialogue (June)
 Pitcairn: Verdict? (June)
 NATO: Heads of Government Meeting (Jun/20-22 Jul)
 Espionage: Stella Rimmington's memoirs (June)

July

France: PM to attend 85th anniv of Battle of Somme (1)
 South Korea: Foreign & Trade Minister to visit? (1-3)
 Court Case: Ali Dagher v HMCE ?FCO officials called (2-27)
 Dip Corps: Foreign Secretary annual reception (3)
 Croatia: Visit by Foreign Minister Picula (3)
 Arms: SALW Conf, New York: Poss SofS visit (9-10)
 GM Foods: Conference in Thailand (10-12)
 US: Pos visit to Washington (11-12)
 Washington: Pos SofS bilateral visit (11-13)
 US/Kyoto: Talks in Bonn (14-28)
 ABMT: Bush/Putin Summit? (15?)
 GAC: Brussels (16)
 Argentina: Foreign Minister Giavarini (17)
 G8: Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Portofino (18-19)
 G8: Genoa Summit (20-22)
 Iran: Possible visit to Iran (23-25)
 Japan: Parliamentary Upper House elections (29)
 Zimbabwe: New UK HC arrives (July)
 China: Olympic 2008 decision? (July)
 Australia: Parliamentary elections (July)
 Bangladesh: Presidential/Parliamentary elections (July)

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L Am/Carib: Possible PM visit (July)
 Europe: Ministerial Process Meeting (July)
 Afghanistan: UNSG's suggestion of a residential conf (July)
 US/Kyoto: US Policy review published (July?)
 Gibraltar: Brussels process meeting (July)

August

Zimbabwe: Blantyre Summit (13-14)
 Gibraltar: Visit by Earl & Countess of Wessex (29/8 - 1/9)
 Human Rights: World Conf Against Racism, Durban (31/8-7/9)

September

Germany: World Cup Qualifier: disorder? (1)
 Echelon: EP will debate and vote in Plenary (5)
 Espionage: Pos publication of Rimmington memoirs (6)
 Europe: EU Foreign Ministers Informal (8-9)
 Iran: Pos visit to Iran? (10-12)
 UK/India: Joint Working Group: Terrorism & Drugs (17)
 Peace: International Day of Peace (21)
 UNGA: SofS to attend (24-28)
 Conference: Labour Party Conf, Brighton (30 Sept-4 Oct)
 Ireland: Duke of York to visit (Sept)

October

Australia: State Visit (3-12)
 Commonwealth: CMAG Meeting (5)
 Commonwealth: CHOGM, Brisbane (6-9)
 New Zealand: State Visit (12-19)
 US/Kypoto: COP 7, Marrakech (26 Oct-10 Nov)
 Gambia: Presidential election (Oct)
 Kuwait/UAE/Oman: Duke of York to visit (Oct)
 Iceland: Royal visit yet to be allocated

November/December

UK/France: UK-French Summit (Nov)
 Zambia: Presidential & Parliamentary elections (Nov)
 WTO: Ministerial in Doha (Nov)
 Seoul: Pos visit by President Kim Dae-Jung (7-10)

June 2002

Falkands/St Helena/Ascension: Duke of York to visit
 Jubilee: Queen's Golden Jubilee (1-4)

Autumn 2002

Sweden: Scotland in Sweden

Undated

Indonesia: East Timor trials?

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cc: JoP
JH

MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT CHANGES

- Home Office
 - gains drugs, administration of the criminal courts, administration of the CPS and SFO
 - loses animal welfare issues (including hunting) to DRA; gambling, Tote and horse racing, liquor licensing, censorship and video classifications to DCMS; constitutional issues to LCD
 - not yet resolved: voluntary sector (previously agreed to move to DCMS); civil contingencies (possibly to CO); civil courts and tribunals; Customs' law enforcement functions; family policy

- LCD
 - gains constitutional issues from HO
 - loses administration of criminal courts (and possibly civil courts and tribunals)
 - not yet resolved: do we commit to an independent Judicial Appointments Committee?
 - role as Speaker of the House of Lords to be dealt with in Lords reform second stage

- DRA
 - gains DETR's rural responsibilities plus Countryside Agency; animal welfare issues (from HO)
 - loses flood defence to DETR

- not yet resolved: should the FSA have a role on animal health?
- **DFEE**
 - loses employment issues
 - not yet resolved: it does not make much sense for DFEE to retain lead on disability issues (previously linked to employment); should we move Millennium Volunteers scheme to the department responsible for the voluntary sector?
- **Department for Work and Welfare**
 - announce that for the next 2 years, DSS will be expanded to include the Employment Service plus related policy issues, while Benefits Agency is de-merged into WAA and Pensions Organisation
 - not yet resolved: should the DFWW also take over disability issues (we assume Women's Unit and SEU will stay in Cabinet Office)? Family policy and voluntary sector could fit here if not in HO
 - in April 2003, Department for Work and Department for Security established as separate departments (though the latter is not really viable!)
- **DETR**
 - gains flood defence
 - loses RDAs to DTI and RCU/GORs to Cabinet Office
- **DCMS**
 - gains gambling, horse racing, censorship etc from HO
 - not yet resolved: should it have voluntary sector too?
- **Treasury**
 - not yet resolved: possible creation of a business tax agency and a retail tax/benefits agency out of Inland Revenue and Customs.

- DTI

- gains RDAs
- not yet resolved: new name?

- Cabinet Office

- loses drugs
- gains RCU/GORs
- not yet resolved: possibly bigger role at the centre for the Government's Chief Scientist (at present he is part of DTI); possibly civil contingencies

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Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

PRIME MINISTER

cc Minister for the Cabinet Office
Minister of State, Cabinet Office

CURRENT ISSUES: 7 MAY 2001

HMS Tireless

Departs Gibraltar 7 May.

Takeovers Directive

In conciliation with the EP. But late Schroeder intervention threatens to undermine the "shareholder decides" provision which is crucial for the City. We are holding firm.

PES Congress

Berlin, 7 May. Foreign Secretary should be elected PES President. Future of Europe high on the agenda.

Information and Consultation

We await word from the Swedes on the timing of the Employment and Social Policy Council currently scheduled for 11 June. Following your meeting, we are considering our tactics for the Council.

Foot and Mouth

You know the position. Chief Veterinary Officer has begun discussions with Commission on options for regaining FMD free status for part or all of the country.

Legislation

Special Educational Needs Bill and Social Security Fraud Bill now completed their passage.

Commonwealth Games

Financial difficulties acute. Treasury, Cabinet Office and DCMS drawing up options for support for further Ministerial meeting on 8 May.

Post Office

Negotiations with the clearing banks on the Universal Bank continue: the Royal Bank of Scotland is now being difficult. We will give you advice on eligibility for card accounts.

CONFIDENTIAL

TUPE

We will give you advice on the disagreement between DTI and the Treasury on aligning the conditions of ex-public and private sector workers in the same company.

Growth incentives for local authorities

There is a case for allowing local authorities to keep some business rates where they give planning permission for commercial development. We will give you a note.

Welfare Reform

The Policy Unit and the Secretariat have produced a note on a future agenda.

Human Rights

The Court of Appeal have declared part of the Consumer Credit Act incompatible. (Wilson v First County Trust). The finding that the Human Rights Act applies to events that took place before 2 October 2000 is very unwelcome. DTI are considering whether to ask the House of Lords for leave to appeal.

Data Protection Act

I will advise you on the room for manoeuvre.

Ry.

RICHARD WILSON
4 May 2001

PRIME MINISTER *removed
initials*

From: Helen Mason

Date: 4 May 2001

cc. Jonathan Powell
Jeremy Heywood
Alastair Campbell
Private Office

BUSINESS

I attach the usual papers:

- A. Grid and narrative for next week.
- B. Grid and preview for the week after next.
- C. Longer term grids.

Helen Ma-

HELEN MASON
SCU

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WEEK 19

PRINT: 4 May 2001

7-13 May	Mon 7	Tues 8	Weds 9	Thur 10	Fri 11	Sat-Sun 12-13
Main News	BANK HOLIDAY 00.01 Milburn: £105m for hospital equipment	Straw: sentencing review Clarke: con doc on sex offenders law review	Nick Brown: Hills Taskforce (FMD) tbc Rural taskforce meets	Interest rates - midday Blunkett spch to CYWU on youth policy	Milburn: NHS waits inc outpatients (Q4)	FA Cup Final (13)
Statistics Other Government News	w/c Retail sales (Feb) External trade stats (Feb) Byers: confirm paternity leave inc adoption Blunkett: poll of headteachers re literacy and numeracy standards w/c HMS Tireless to leave Gibraltar Hain: Con doc on gas and electricity regulation 00.01 Clarke: tagging of goods re crime prevention Hunt: New regs on dentists services Bassam: Internet Crime Forum Byers: Universal Bank	CBI regional trends Mergers (Q1); index of distribution (Feb) Mergers (Q1) Hain: £25m for coalmines Blunkett: Combined Universities in Cornwall Connexions card contract awarded Milburn: new NHS menu PIU rept on Global Health Clarke: Intnt'l policing protocol signed Hodge: support for outdoor play schemes Byers: PO closures Boateng: Prison Service Performance + Carter rept OFSTED rept on ICT Jowell: streamlining equal pay tribunals Hill: South Hants light rail system go-ahead	Exam performnce Wales 2000 Nick Brown: Input Taskforce Smith/CPAG rept on free school meals Moonie before Defence Ctte re GWI & DU (1030) MPC meeting (9-10) 1st mtg of Ministerial Committee on Animal Rights	Index of production (Mar) Births & deaths 2000 Traffic 2000; hse building (Mar); Lab Mkt Trends Road Goods Travelling to mainland Europe (Q4 2000) Transport of goods by road GB2000; Child Benefit (Feb) Hgher Edn Students in Sctln (99-00) Meacher: speech on bio-diversity (Darwin Initiative)	ONS travel & tourism (March) Hutton: Social Services Inspectorate rept on children in care	Italian gen elec (13)
Europe Parliament Political General	Chx: ECOFIN; Empl & Soc Affairs Coun Cook to PES Congress Rowntree report on ethnic minorities and pension decisions Adult learners week	BIE pamphlet HoC: SO & LCD PQs CrimJustice and Police Bill - Cmmtee Stg Jiang Zemin visits HK UEFA Champs Lg semi Livingstone: spatial development strategy for London Public rcds released: Easter rising 1916, Cold War and WW2 POW	HoC: NI PQs & PMQs PQ Pinochet final costs HOL judgement on Alconbury planning - Human Rights case Europe Day Blunkett and May on the JYP - educatn debate Cannes Film Fest (9-11)	ECB Gov Coun HoC: HMT PQs High Court Applicatn for group litigation for the organ retention incident RCGP conf on HIV (10-11) Shipman Inquiry public mtg Inquest on Cambs wrong blood case	SW Train Strike Hep C lookback exercises Epsom and Harlow Joseph Rowntree rept on social exclusion / new travellers 1st Anniversary Tate Modern	RCN: Nurses Day (12)

10 DOWNING STREET STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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WEEK 20

PRINT: 4 May 2001

14-20 May	Mon 14	Tues 15	Weds 16	Thur 17	Fri 18	Sat-Sun 19-20
Main News		Lord Archer's trial	Unemployment & Average earnings (Apr)	LOCAL ELEC PURDAH		
Statistics	Producer prices (Apr); w/c Children in care inc educ	Variations in health & UK health stats (ONS) Econ Trends (May); e-comm inq (ONS) Consumer prices (Apr)	Under 5s (Jan) Special educatn needs in schools (Jan 01) Labour market stats (regional)	Retail sales (Apr) Rail freight 2000; nat curric assessments 2000 civil service diversity, CSA (Feb)	Meacher speech on countryside recreation	
Other Government News	w/c Hodge: lay Disab Discrim Regs (tbc) Hunt: World Health Ass-embly, Geneva HO: Formal hearing on Prison Service (tbc)	Prince of Wales opens Eden Project, Cornwall	Straw speech to Police Federation Bank of England Inflation Report Chris Smith: Children's Laureate Meacher: OECD Min Mtg on sus dev, Paris (16-18)	Jacqui Smith speech on children in care Hoon speech to London Chamb of Commerce		
Europe	Cook/Hoon: GAC & Defence Ministers; Industry Coun (14-15); EP plenary (14-17)				EU ban on UK meat trade expires	
Parliament	HoC: DSS PQs HOL judgement on 3 Human Rights Cases	HoC: DH PQs	HoC: WO PQs & PMQs	HoC: MAFF PQs		
Political		Police Fed annual conf (15-17)	UEFA Cup Final	UNISON nat forum (18-20) Cricket: Eng v Pakistan 1st test at Lords	Duke of Kent in Crete re battle anniversary (18-21)	RCN Congress (20-24)
General	Samaritans Week Adult Learning Week TSSA annual conf, Torquay (12-17)	US Fed Open Mkts Ctte Int Day of Families	AUT annual conf, Scarborough (16-19) FBU annual conf (16-18)	Pre-School Learning Alliance annual conf FDA annual conf, London		

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WEEK 21

PRINT: 4 May 2001

21-27 May	Mon 21	Tues 22	Weds 23	Thur 24	Fri 25	Sat-Sun 26-27
Main News	Rail Reg deadline for Railtrack recovery; fares increase; Summer timetables		Chx speech to CBI Annual Dinner			
Statistics Other Government News	<p>UK trade (Mar/Apr) CML mortgage survey (Apr); pub sec finances (Apr)</p> <p>w/c UCAS applications for 2001 entry</p> <p>Milburn: speech to child care conf</p> <p>Chris Smith speech to Equity</p> <p>DFEE: intervene in Bradford LEA</p>	<p>Denham speech to RCN Congress</p> <p>Raynsford: launch Qual Mark for Builders</p> <p>Meacher: environment awards forum</p>	<p>Vehicles (Apr); prison popn to 2008</p> <p>Milburn speech to NHS Confederation</p> <p>DH: RCS rept on faulty hips</p>	CBI industrial trends (May); ONS Health Quarterly; investment (Q1) civil service staffing	<p>Asylum (Apr): UK output, income & expenditure (Q1)</p> <p>OECD rept on school management</p> <p>HM Insp Fire Service rept</p> <p>Blunkett: Any Questions</p>	
Europe Parliament Political General	<p>Cohesion Forum; Culture informal (20-22) WTO rept on US export subsidies (FSCs)</p> <p>HoC: HO PQs</p> <p>RCN Congress, Harrogate (21-24)</p> <p>British Cardiac Soc annual mtg (21-24)</p> <p>POA annual conf, Southport (21-25)</p> <p>MIND Week</p> <p>Multiple Sclerosis Week</p>	<p>Nick Brown: Agric Coun (22-25)</p> <p>HoC: DETR PQs</p> <p>NEC</p> <p>Marks & Spencer financial results</p> <p>Int Biodiversity Day</p>	<p>ECB Gov Coun</p> <p>HoC: Dfid PQs & PMQs</p>	<p>HoC: DFEE PQs</p> <p>ASEM Foreign Ministers, Beijing (24-25)</p>	<p>ACPO conf, NEC Birmingham</p>	<p>Clinton speech to Hay Festival on conflict (26)</p> <p>Cyprus elects (27)</p> <p>NATFHE annual conf, Scarborough (26-28)</p> <p>Scottish FA Cup Final (26)</p>

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WEEK 22

PRINT: 4 MAY 2001

28 May-3 June	Mon 28 Whit Recess	Tues 29	Weds 30	Thur 31	Fri 1	Sat-Sun 2-3
Main News	BANK HOLIDAY	CIVIL SERV HOLIDAY				
Statistics Other Government News	w/c DH: heart disease & cancer overviews w/c Jowell: rept on employment of offenders	SPADS (Apr) ; lending & credit (Apr) Morris: speech to NAHT annual conf Hunt speech to Haemophilia Society Cook: NATO Ministerial, Budapest (29-30) DETR: Conservation Awards 2000	00.01 HMLR hse prices (Q1); GCSEs & A levels 99/00; social services spending 99/00	New Deal; monetary & financial (Apr)	00.01 Audit Comm rept on NHS fraud NATS PPP completion Concessionary fares scheme extension (not London) Boateng: code of practice on volunteering HO: Sex Offenders Act into effect	
Europe Parliament Political General	Straw: JHA Coun (28-29) Half-term holidays	NAHT annual conf NZ Appeal Court re spec forces book	EP plenary (31-31) HM Queen State Visit to Norway (30-1)	Hunt: Health Coun Kashmire ceasefire due to expire Irish referendum on Nice Treaty Cricket: Eng v Pakistan at Old Trafford World No Tobacco Day		GMB annual conf, Brighton (3-7) CWU annual conf (3-8)

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WEEK 23

PRINT: 4 May 2001

4-10 June	Mon 4	Tues 5	Weds 6	Thur 7	Fri 8	Sat-Sun 9-10
Main News	Straw speech to Youth Justice Board		Interest rates (midday)	LOCAL ELECTIONS		
Statistics Other Government News	CJD (May) Council Tax 2001/02 (final) DSS rept on pensioners incomes international comparisons Whitty: speech to CWU	CBI dist trades (May) Share ownership 2000 Cook before FAC re European Council mtg MPC meeting (5-6)	Graduate teachers Straw speech to Crime-stoppers UK NATO Defence Ministerial (6-8) PHLS repts on chlamydia Blackstone speech on student performance	Index of production (Apr) Hse building (Apr); Lab Mkt Trends (Jun)	NHS waits (Apr); ONS travel & tourism (Apr); youth justice pledge (Mar) Cook: Elliott Lecture, Oxford (tbc)	Irvine speech to minority lawyers conf (9)
Europe Parliament Political General	GMB annual conf, Brighton (to 7) CWU annual conf (to 8)	ECOFIN ; Internal Market Coun Kenneth Noye appeal World Environment Day	Comm: company tax study (tbc) ; Internal Mkt & Consumer Affairs Couns Eng v Greece World Cup qualifier Guinness appeal (or 12) Women's Institute annual conf	ECB Gov Council; Environment Coun BMA senior hosp staff conf Mothers' Union 125th anniversary service, Westminster Cathedral	BMA Junior Docs conf Iranian Pres elec Anniversary of Brig Saunders' murder	Duke of Edinburgh's 80th birthday (9) Bar Council AGM (9) Infant Deaths Foundation annual conf (9) MSF annual conf, Eastbourne (9-12)

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WEEK 24

PRINT: 4 MAY 2001

11-17 June	Mon 11	Tues 12	Weds 13	Thur 14	Fri 15	Sat-Sun 16-17
Main News	w/c Cullen rept on Ladbroke Grove (tbc)	Tube PPP judicial review application hearing	Unemployment & Average earnings (May)		PM: European Council, Gothenburg (15-17)	00.01 Birthday Honour (16)
Statistics	Producer prices (May)	Consumer prices (May)		Retail sales (May); Econ Trends (June)	Homelessness (Q1)	
Other Government News	GMC hearing on Bristol heart doc	PM: President Mbeki visit (12-14)	PM/Bush: NATO Coun Straw speech on involuntary manslaughter BRTF rept on shopkeepers DFEE: new anti-drugs website	Blunkett: study support evaluation rept Chx speech to Inst for Jewish Policy Research	MOD: announce RAF withdrawal from Germany	
Europe	Empl & Soc Affairs Coun (Info & Consultation Directive) Cook: GAC; EP plenary (11-14)			EU/US Summit		
Parliament						
Political						
General	WHO/FAO conf on BSE (11-14) Carers Week AEEU Policy & Rules Conf (11-15) UN Day Against Drugs					UNISON annual conf, Brighton (17-20) Trooping the Colour (16) Le Mans 24-hour race (16-17) Paris Air Show (16-24)

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WEEK 26

PRINT: 4 MAY 2001

25 June-1 July	Mon 25	Tues 26	Weds 27	Thur 28	Fri 29	Sat-Sun 30-1
Main News	Blunkett: White Paper on educ reform (tbc) w/c Auld rept on criminal justice system					
Statistics Other Government News	Asylum (May); Investment (Q1) PM: Motorola Youth Parliament G8 conf on global drugs economy, London (25-26)	Balance of payments (Q1); nat accts (Q1) Internet access (Q1) Pub sec accts (Q1) Chris Smith speech to CBI tourism conf Hutton: speech on NHS advocacy Morris: dinner for city academy	Mortgage lending NHS Week (27-5) Chris Smith speech re lottery monitoring	Popn Trends (Summer) Injury & poisoning 99 Cook to West Africa (28-30) (tbc)	Lending & monetary (May) Straw: gambling review	HMT: reduced rate lorry VED into effect (1) Hoon/CDS: 85th anniversary of Somme, Paris
Europe Parliament Political General	GAC Refugee Week RMT annual conf, Scarborough (25-30) Wimbledon Tennis (25-8)	Research Coun GLA State of London debate Int Day Against Drug Abuse & Trafficking	Telecom Coun; Transpt Coun			New EU Presidency (1) Anderson: tourism summit, Bruges BMA annual mtg (1-5)

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WEEK 25

PRINT: 4 MAY 2001

18-24 June	Mon 18	Tues 19	Weds 20	Thur 21	Fri 22	Sat-Sun 23-24
Main News						
Statistics Other Government News	Milburn speech on NHS personnel policies FCO conf on GM, Bangkok (18-25)	Macdonald speech to conf on SRA Meacher speech to IEA on water	UK trade (Apr/May) CML mortgage survey (May); pub sec finances (May) Meacher speech to UNISON on H&S	Vehicles (May) Hutton speech on human rights & NHS		
Europe Parliament Political General	Fisheries Coun UNISON annual conf, Brighton (to 20) ASLEF annual conf, Scarborough (11-15)	ECOFIN ; Agric Coun (19-20)	 BMA GPs annual conf, London (20-21)	Culture Coun; ECB Gov Coun Summer Solstice	 UN Special Session on HIV/AIDS (22-27)	 UNISON annual conf, Brighton (17-20) Trooping the Colour (16) Le Mans 24-hour race (16-17)

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MAIN BUSINESS IN WEEK MONDAY 7 MAY 2001

During the week

Ministry of Defence to announce that HMS Tireless will leave Gibraltar. Actual date of departure (Monday 7 May) will not be announced externally. Repair work was completed on 23 March and the repair was successfully tested on 16 April. Representatives from Gibraltar and Spain were onboard during this test. HMS Tireless remains safe; the repair was safely completed in Gibraltar to the highest standards following a leak of coolant water from pipework in the reactor compartment on 19 May 2000. Radiation levels within the submarine have remained normal and there has been no safety hazard to crew or the general public. Because of MoD's strict safety standards towards any nuclear repair work, the repair took some months to complete.

Possible for Tuesday or Wednesday: Attorney General's decision on whether the Sunday Mirror was in contempt of Court, following the publication of an interview with the victim's father during the Leeds footballers' trial. Likely to dominate the news.

Italian General Elections on Sunday 13th.

Monday 7 May 2001

[0001] Alan Milburn to announce £105 million in 2001/2 for hospital equipment. This is Capital Modernisation money and will be provided directly to acute trusts, allowing nurses and doctors to be involved in the decision making on what it will be spent on as part of the Government's drive to devolve more power to the NHS frontline. The smallest trusts will receive £100,000 and the largest £1million.

[0001] Charles Clarke to announce the first two successful bidders in the first round of the 'Chipping of Goods' initiative. They are Tri-mex (mobile phone transportation) and HPI (a database company working with small boats) with £4.5million is available to fund demonstrator pilots showing how property crime can be reduced throughout the retail supply chain. The scheme involves the use of RFID (radio frequency identification) electronic tags on merchandise in the supply chain, either on individual items or on shipments such as pallets, plastic crates or roll cages. Widespread adoption of RFID is expected to lead to crime reduction and improvement of supply chain management and e-commerce operations. Chipping systems might also provide evidence admissible in a court of law which can help convict those responsible for 'fencing' and selling-on stolen merchandise.

[1530] Lord Bassam to announce the formal launch of the Taskforce on Child Protection on the Internet. This is a partnership between Government, the industry involved in providing Internet services in the UK, enforcement agencies and children's charities. It aims to make the UK the best and safest place in the world for children to use the Internet and also help protect children worldwide from abuse fuelled by criminal use of new technologies. Consideration will be given to the structure of co-regulation for the industry and whether it needs to be strengthened.

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The Taskforce will build on recommendations made by the Internet Crime Forum in their report "Chatwise Streetwise". A new public awareness campaign will form part of the Taskforce's work.

David Blunkett to welcome a vote of confidence by headteachers to the National Literacy and Numeracy Strategies. In a poll carried out by BMRB 96 per cent (one per cent more than last year) said that they supported the Literacy Strategy and 77 per cent (11 per cent more than in 2000) believe that it is helping to improve standards of writing. 98 per cent of heads support the numeracy strategy (same as last year) with 91 per cent saying it had improved the quality of maths teaching (a big rise on last year's 84 per cent). The survey demonstrates strong backing for the Government's action in keeping up the pace in the standards drive. David Blunkett also to announce the new guidance to help teachers boost writing standards for four to seven year olds. It will build on the popular Grammar Guide, providing tips to improve handwriting, spelling and word games, and advice on teaching sentence construction.

Peter Hain to launch guidance to OFGEM the gas and electricity regulator, to bring their current regulation policies in line with the Government's environmental objectives. Hain will call on Ofgem to make markets more open, transparent and flexible, so that customers can make more informed decisions about energy suppliers and payment systems. The guidance will also ensure that Ofgem works with the Govt to reduce greenhouse gases and increase the use of renewable energy sources.

Lord Hunt to announce new regulations to allow dentists to conduct more extensive treatment under "Occasional Services". Patients are currently able to receive very basic care from dentists with whom they are not registered. New regulations will increase amount of care they can receive. Fulfils Prime Minister's pledge on access to dentistry. British Dental Association likely to be unhappy as they feel that the proposed changes are too significant for their Executive Committee to agree without discussion at the full committee next June.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation to publish a report on the pensions knowledge and factors influencing pensions choices of Pakistani and Bangladeshi men in Oldham based on research between January 1998 and February 1999. The main conclusions show: a large, poor group of Pakistani and Bangladeshi men who work in low paid, "cash in hand" employment, or are unemployed; they have been unable to build up adequate pension rights, lack knowledge about pensions, and need to meet financial commitments to their families and the wider community. A group of white men was interviewed as a control group, but they differed in their household income, employment status and family size – all factors which could affect someone's ability to contribute to a pension, leading to limited comparisons. The research is also limited in scope as it focuses on only 89 people – all men. Research shows some insight but findings should probably be treated with caution. The Foundation does not plan to issue a press notice but the location of the research in Oldham may be picked up by the media.

Tuesday 8 May 2001

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Jack Straw to make a statement about the report of the Sentencing Review framework. The review was announced on 16 May 2000 to look at options for tougher sentencing for persistent offenders. The focus was on what changes were needed to the current sentencing framework in order to reduce offending. Key recommendations are: that it should be made explicit that the severity of sentence should increase for recent persistent offenders; that custodial sentences should be redesigned to address the deficiencies of prison sentences under 12 months (with tougher post-sentence follow up) and that there should be a greater emphasis on reparation by means of community-based punishment.

[TO BE CONFIRMED] Charles Clarke to publish a consultation document on the Review of Part 1 of the Sex Offenders Act. This is largely concerned with tightening up the current requirements for sex offenders to register with the police. The register would not empower police to place any restrictions on offenders or, in reality, prevent them from re-offending. The document is likely to reignite all of the debate on "Sarah's Law" (News of the World) and attract criticism that the Government is not doing enough until it makes details of sex offenders publicly available.

Stephen Byers to announce a new deal for adoptive parents and also the framework for paternity leave. From 2003 working parents who adopt a child will be entitled to: six months' paid and six months' unpaid leave with a choice of who takes time off and who receives payment, the other parent being entitled to two weeks paid "paternity" leave; paid adoption leave will be available for children adopted up to the age of 18. Employees will be required to give notice to employers that leave will be required. There are around 2,000 adoptions a year and if an additional 25 per cent of adoptive parents were able to remain in employment as a result of adoption leave, savings to employers in recruitment costs would be £175,000 per year. One-third of employers already offer support to adoptive parents. By 2003 families where an adoptive parent would otherwise receive no financial support for staying with the child would be up to £2,600 better off.

Also from April 2003 new fathers will be entitled to two weeks paid paternity leave. They will need to have worked with their employer for 26 weeks before notification week – consistent with maternity leave, by the 15th week before the expected birth - and will be able to take leave anytime during the first two months after the child's birth. There are an estimated 450,000 employed fathers a year who will be eligible for paternity leave. The rate will be the same flat rate as Statutory Maternity Pay which will be £100 per week from April 2003. In each scheme, small employers will be able to reclaim the money they pay in full plus compensation for additional money or the cost of administering adoption pay.

Britain In Europe will launch a pamphlet called "The EU Today", which rebutts the argument that the EU is becoming a superstate. Contributions have been written by Sir Michael Butler, Sir David Hannay, Dame Pauline Neville Jones, and Sir Robin Butler. A leaflet will also be published containing quotations from all 15 Heads of State on this theme.

DfEE will answer a PQ on the preferred bidder for the Connexions card contract. The announcement is commercial in-confidence. The preferred bidder is CAPITA.

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Alan Milburn to launch the new NHS Menu and Recipe Book at the annual conference of the Hospital Caterers Association. The NHS Plan promised a new menu by 2001. TV personality Lloyd Grossmann and a team of leading chefs have been working with a group of NHS catering managers, nurses and dieticians to fulfil this. There will be a new standard menu showing the range of meals on offer for use across the NHS and, for the first time, a national list of dishes with a common recipe, including more than 40 which have been created by the chefs working with Lloyd Grossmann. The names of some of the dishes (such as "posh pear and chocolate crumble" and "yummy Yorkshire pudding") could attract media attention. Trusts will be encouraged to use the list to begin the process of ironing out the variations in quality currently seen across the country. There will also be a 24-hour "All Hours" service to meet the needs of patients outside normal mealtimes and as a lighter alternative to the main meals. Hospitals have been notified of this. It will all be packaged in the NHS Recipe Book. Work to date has been well received by the British Diabetic Association, the Vegetarian Society, Help the Aged, Diabetes UK and the Alzheimers Society, as well as the Hospital Caterers Association whose chairman has been involved throughout. There will be an interactive web-based database through which the NHS Estates Better Hospital Food Team and NHS catering services will be able to use to make changes, introduce new dishes and spread good practice very quickly.

Performance and Innovation Unit to publish a "Tackling the diseases of poverty" - a report on health in developing countries. It is a package suggesting action to meet the Okinawa/Millennium targets for HIV/Aids, tuberculosis and malaria. The report will propose a holistic package of measures, including a Global Fund for Health to reduce the burden of diseases in the poorest countries. This would make existing products (drugs, vaccines, etc) available to the poorest countries and create incentives for new, more effective products to be developed by guaranteeing that they will be purchased. The report will emphasise that there is a strong case for the current impetus to tackle health and poverty issues in general and the burden of communicable disease in developing countries to be a platform for improved international co-ordination on these initiatives.

Margaret Hodge to announce a new £4 million grant to help provide outdoor play facilities for under-fives with child care providers in disadvantaged areas. The grant will be administered by local Early Years and Development and Childcare Partnerships. They will be encouraged to develop creative and innovative solutions to the challenges of establishing outdoor play which can exist in many disadvantaged areas – because outdoor space is not available or because good quality equipment and facilities cannot be afforded. In some areas, a mobile facility might well be appropriate or the grant might be used to fund trips to high quality play and learning experiences. Although the scheme is primarily aimed at group provision, partnerships will also be required to consider the needs of local registered childminders. Public access, where feasible, would be encouraged, but this is not a specific aim. The money is not new and comes from existing Early Years and Childcare Unit budgets.

Charles Clarke will answer a PQ, saying that Association of Chief Police Officers, Home Office, Ministry of Defence and Foreign Office have agreed a joint protocol on future contributions to international civilian policing operations. This will make the

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UK position clear ahead of the 10 May Brussels conference. The requirement is that Member States provide up to 5000 police for international missions by 2003. (missions would include policing the Balkan states). The protocol will say that the UK is increasing its potential from 260 to 300 police from England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with a further 100 officers from MOD police. The Eurosceptic media could use this opportunity to draw attention to the police numbers debate, or suggest the creation of an EU police force.

Paul Boateng will publish key performance indicators for the Prison Service (2000-01). The report says that Service met ten out of the eighteen targets for the year and narrowly missed the others. Improvements in security are said to be good - especially in the reduction of escapes from prisons (11 last year compared with 30 the year before). Drug use has fallen by nearly half since 96/7 - well ahead of the target. But the average rate of sickness amongst staff increased and basic literacy and numeracy skills targets amongst prisoners were not met.

Stephen Byers to announce by PQ that a net total of 112 urban offices and 435 rural offices closed in year ending 26 March 2001. Of the closures in the year, only 4 are permanent. The primary reason for temporary closures is the retirement of sub-postmasters. In addition, 123 rural and 46 urban offices reopened in the year. Also, subject to final verification, net closures in the final quarter of the year ending 26 March 2001 were 113, of which 20 were urban offices and 93 were rural offices. This indicates a significant downward trend in post office closures compared with the third quarter when net closures were 135 and the first half of the year when closures were running at a rate of 150 per quarter. Negotiations still continue on the Universal Bank.

[TO BE CONFIRMED] Prison Service to publish Carter Report on private sector involvement in the management of prisons. The main themes are: offering the private sector an expanding role, but ensuring that the public sector remains competitive - this could be opposed by the unions. All but one of the 20 recommendations in the report have been accepted. This related to a limited programme of full market testing being retained, but was not in line with what had been announced - feasibility was unclear and the private sector was not happy. An idea to sell old prisons and use the money to help finance new ones was trailed last year to mixed media reaction - the nationals treated it as a joke while regional newspapers were concerned about local neighbourhood prisons. Pat Carter is a non-executive director of the Prison Service.

Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) to publish report on Information Communication Technology (ICT) in teaching and learning in schools. Its findings relate to the impact of ICT on standards and teaching, the implementation by local education authorities (LEAs) of ICT funding initiatives, planning and management of initiatives, accommodation, resources and technical support and the impact of training programmes on teachers. The report says that, as a result of the National Grid for Learning (NGfL) announced by the Government in 1997, improvements can be clearly identified in the levels and quality of ICT resources in schools and in pupil's access to information through the Internet. These have in turn contributed to recent signs of improvement in teaching and in pupil's progress in IT capability. But the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) - £230 million Lottery funds to help increase

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teachers' competence in use of ICT available from April 1999 – has not had the same impact. Only half of all teachers have enrolled and only a minority have completed training. Among the recommendations is one to raise the profile of NOF training and develop a national programme on In Service Training (INSET) for headteachers in managing ICT developments. It is also suggested that LEAs need to provide more support for schools in their ICT development planning. Schools need to clarify what pupils should learn from ICT and establish teachers' ICT needs as well as building on existing programmes.

Tessa Jowell to announce steps to make the equal pay laws simpler, speedier and fairer. £145,000 will also be given to the Union Learning Fund for pilot programmes in London and the South East, the North West and the Midlands to train members to carry out pay reviews. The plan will help close the gender pay gap. There are more than 12.5million women working today, but for every £1 a man earns, a woman earns just 82 pence. Government has made a firm commitment to achieve fair pay and equal opportunities for women and has already set up the Women's Employment and Pay Review and appointed Fair Pay Champions. Tackling the red tape and bureaucracy involved in taking an equal pay case will involve simplifying the paperwork into one single form and having a new questionnaire so women can obtain key information from their employer at the very beginning. Tribunals will be encouraged to hear cases themselves by calling in an "assessor" for expert advice rather than formal reports from independent experts. If the case is complex, only the independent expert will give evidence, not the different experts called in by each of the parties. Detailed procedural regulations will also be scrapped. The tribunal system will be made fairer by removing the "no reasonable grounds" defence and the two year time limit on back pay. Consultation is continuing with the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

Peter Hain to announce £25 million for four coal mines in England, Scotland and Wales. Hatfield Colliery near Doncaster will receive £3.807million, Blenkinsopp Colliery in Northumbria will receive £1.168million, Longannet Deep Mine in Scotland will receive £18.318million, and Betws Colliery in Wales £1.966million. The aid is for coal produced in 2001 and is to help the coal industry through short term energy market problems. The money is paid out under the UK Coal Operating Aid Scheme which was approved by the European Commission on 15 November 2000. The total amount paid under the scheme so far is £110million.

Keith Hill to announce the go-ahead for a light rail system in South Hampshire from Fareham to Portsmouth via Gosport. Part of the system will be built in a disused railway corridor and it will also include a proposed immersed tube tunnel under Portsmouth harbour. A public inquiry was held in March 1999. The scheme fulfils targets set in the Ten Year Plan and is part of a series of proposals for rail systems under the Transport Works Acts.

[0001] David Blunkett to announce a £19 million package to support the development of the Combined Universities in Cornwall (CUC) project. This funding matches European Structural funding already agreed in principle for Cornwall's Objective 1 project and is part of a wider programme to invest in the regeneration of the county. Around 90 per cent of young people in Cornwall who take up higher education (HE) leave the county and many do not return. New HE places will be

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found across the county to serve local people. The first phase is planned to take in students in Autumn 2003 with Falmouth as the base for degree level study and research and the region's further education colleges taking on vocational study as part of the CUC network. The £19million funding comes from the higher Education funding Council for England, supported by the department for Education and Employment (£13million), the Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions – through the Southwest Regional Development Agency (£5million) and the Department of Trade and Industry (£1million) for phase one of the CUC initiative.

Wednesday 9 May 2001

Nick Brown to publish the report of the Hills Task Force. Main recommendations: a free combined business and environmental appraisal, with appropriate counseling support offered to any farmer affected by foot and mouth disease (FMD); development of a post-FMD strategy for the worst hit areas (by Countryside Agency, English Nature, National Park Authorities, local authorities, MAFF, regional development agencies working with farming organisations); re-stocking plans to consider need to stock with animals appropriate for the area and for sustainable environment management, and time it will take to restock and establish over several years to obtain a return on capital; and holdings de-stocked by FMD to continue to be eligible for Hill Farm Allowance. The report is not expected to cost proposals. It does however welcome early payment of agri-monetary compensation but recommends further assistance for those affected but not infected, including a locally allocated disaster recovery fund for public agencies to assist rural businesses, particularly in tourism. A national and international promotional campaign for rural tourism and British meat is suggested to begin immediately after the outbreak. Auction markets should be encouraged to take on a greater role in developing and managing local markets for livestock, including holding and monitoring stock to high welfare standards and organising appropriate haulage. Current plans to impose a minimum holding period on sheep movements could help auction markets to develop a trading regime for sheep which has greater regard for disease control and animal welfare. The report also says that time to apply for Countryside Stewardship should be extended until well after FMD has been brought under control - farmers are currently prevented from making applications as the Upland Surveys are not being carried out. Re-allocation of any underspend on Countryside Stewardship should be considered so that uplands are not disadvantaged.

Note: Elinor Goodman is a member of the Hills Taskforce. Another member is Rosemary Mudge whose animals were slaughtered as dangerous FMD contacts.

Inputs Task Force to report to Nick Brown on scope for reducing input costs in the agriculture industry and to recommend action by industry and/or Government to reduce costs and improve efficiency. Input costs cover the resources a farmer needs to run his business (costs such as fuel, fertiliser, equipment, etc). The Task Force was chaired by Professor Sir John Marsh who will say that it is clear that while UK farmers do not suffer chronic disadvantage in relation to the price of inputs, compared with the rest of Europe, some products (eg fertiliser) sometimes cost more in this country. He will say that much can be done by the industry itself to control cost and optimise farm inputs. The report applies to all sectors of the farming industry – arable, horticulture and livestock and could be picked up by the media in the climate

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of FMD. The findings of the report will be relevant to the longer term. Government will publish a response as soon as possible.

Department for Education and Employment and Child Poverty Action Group to publish a report on Improving the Take-up of Free School Meals. It is estimated that 20 per cent of the 1.8 million children entitled to a free meal do not take it up. Key factors which limit take-up include: fears by parents that children will be stigmatised or embarrassed; pupils having free packed lunches are readily identified by the distinctive packaging of their free meal; belief by parents and children that the quality and choice of food on offer and overcrowded cafeterias deter pupils; if there is no hot meal service parents generally feel they can supply a better packed lunch from home; not all parents are aware of their entitlement or do not know how the system works at the school their child attends. Good practice suggestions: ensure parents are aware with regular reminders, let parents see what is on offer, vigilance by schools to discourage teasing and name calling of pupils on free school meals; cashless systems such as swipe cards to help eliminate identification at tills; ensure food offered provides sufficient choice and variety for free school meal pupils who follow restricted diets. Based on research by the Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London.

Lewis Moonie to appear before the Defence Committee on Gulf War illnesses and depleted uranium. This may provide media with the opportunity to bring up Gulf War veterans and perceived illnesses.

First meeting of the Ministerial Group to tackle Animal Rights Extremists. Discussions may include: further restrictions on access to information relating to investors in and business contacts of targeted companies; wider powers to pass injunctions on individuals or classes of people preventing them from demonstrating in specified areas; action to prevent publication of details of targets on the internet; and action to require advance notice of demonstrations.

Statistics to be published on examination performance in Wales in 2000.

House of Lords judgement expected on the Human Right Act case relating to Alconbury Developments Limited. It involves the refusal of planning permission and an appeal about a proposed development at Alconbury Airfield near Huntingdon, the freehold of which is owned by Ministry of Defence. There is also an application by the developer for a proposed rail link between the development and the East Coast main line. An inquiry into the appeals and application was adjourned, at the request of the developer, following arguments from local pressure groups that the Secretary of State or the Environment, Transport and the Regions was a member of the Government with direct financial interest in the site. The court made a declaration of incompatibility with the Human Rights Act in December 2000 and the Government appealed. Other cases on different aspects of planning law and the Human Rights Act are outstanding. They include Holdings Barnes plc (Canvey Island), Premier Leisure (UK) Limited (a health and fitness centre in the green belt), and Legal and General Assurance Society Limited (re the A34 Chievely junction with the M4). Judgements on these are expected later this month.

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Thursday 10 May 2001

[1200] Decision on interest rates published.

David Blunkett to speak at the Careers and Youth Workers Union (CYWU) conference in Plymouth. The speech will probably concentrate on the Connexions Service with emphasis on the contribution of youth workers to Connexions, the contribution that young people can make as volunteers and the importance of their helping to shape the service. The challenges for the youth service, particularly raising standards and improving the funding base of youth services from local authorities, were outlined in "Transforming Youth Work" which was published recently. The audience will be youth and community workers.

Michael Meacher to publish the fourth annual report on the Darwin Programme at the annual Darwin Seminar. The Darwin Initiative is a £3million a year grant programme run by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions to help developing countries meet their obligations under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). The programme funds collaborative projects between British biodiversity experts and developing country partners to build up their capacity to ensure that sound scientific measures underpin their biodiversity decisions. The report will show the continuing on-going success of the many varied projects around the world which are contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of the world's biodiversity.

Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions to publish statistics on:

- 1) Traffic in Great Britain: 1st Quarter 2001. They will say that traffic fell by one per cent compared with the first quarter of 2000. Interest is likely to focus on the extent to which this is the result of the direct and indirect effects of foot and mouth disease. Indications are that traffic in March 2001 was reduced by about three per cent overall and that if this had not happened, overall traffic in the first quarter would have been little changed from a year ago. Revised traffic estimates for 2000 confirm that total traffic was just 0.4 per cent above the level in 1999. A fall in pedal cycle traffic of two per cent between 1999 and 2000 is disappointing following the five per cent rise between 1998 and 1999, but this figure possibly reflects the extremely wet weather in the second half of 2000.
- 2) Road Goods Vehicles Travelling to Mainland Europe from Great Britain in the fourth quarter of 2000. The number of powered vehicles (rigid vehicles, lorried with semi-trailers and lorries with drawbar trailers) rose by eight per cent compared with the same quarter in 1999 – a little below the annual trend and the number of unaccompanied trailers fell by eight per cent – rather more than the annual decline. The total number of vehicles travelling rose by 8,000. In 2000 as a whole, total number rose by 148,300 (from 2,232,600 to 2,390,900). Powered vehicles increased by 11 per cent and unaccompanied trailers fell by one per cent, accounting for 33 per cent of all vehicle traffic in 2000. The share of all vehicles travelling to Europe by foreign-registered vehicles rose from 39 per cent to 43 per cent, continuing recent trends.

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- 3) Transport of Goods by Road in Great Britain 2000 which will show that the quantity of freight moved by heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) rose by 0.8 per cent from 149billion tonne kilometres in 1999 to 150billion tonne kilometres in 2000. Total tonnage carried rose by 21 per cent between 1980 and 2000 (equivalent to an annual rate of one per cent).
- 4) Vehicle Licensing Statistics 2000 which will show that vehicle stock continues to rise as it has done for the previous eight years. The total number of licensed vehicles in Great Britain at the end of 2000 was just less than 29million, up about half a million since the end of 1999. The totals for most vehicle types have increased – cars, buses and goods vehicles by between nil and five per cent. Vehicles in the motorcycles tax class have increased the most – by almost nine per cent.

[0930] Statistics to be published on Births and Deaths in 2000 – key figures on birth and death rates, infant mortality and fertility rates.

[1100] Dame Janet Smith to outline conduct and timetable of Shipman Inquiry at Manchester Town Hall. Embargoed press briefing at 10.00.

Friday 11 May 2001

Alan Milburn to announce NHS waiting list figures for January to March 2001. A fall of 26,000 inpatients from the end of February on a Trust basis and a similar fall on a Health Authority basis. The Trust-based total is now 151,000 less than the March 1997 position of 1,158 million. Outpatients waiting more than 13 weeks are down by 115,400 since the end of the previous quarter. Possible press conference.

Statistics on travel and tourism during March 2001 to be published. They will show the first effects of foot and mouth disease on the tourism industry.

[0930] John Hutton to publish “Developing Quality to Protect Children” – the national report of the inspection of children’s services in local councils. Significant progress in improving services was seen over the 12 month period (August 1999 to July 2000) covered by these inspections. 1,601 cases were sampled and 291 examined in detail. Shows evident commitment to address the national priorities and strategic objects of Department of Health. Social services providing a wide range of effective services, although not always across their entire communities. Councils varied in extent of family services provided. Children’s welfare usually adequately safeguarded, but in six per cent of cases examined, children were judged not to have been so safeguarded. A high level of vacancies was a significant issue in large numbers of councils (particularly severe in London and South of England. Report is unlikely to attract controversy, as findings in respect of child protection and the workforce are not new.

Lord Hunt to announce that East Surrey Health Authority and North Essex Health Authority are taking action to contact hospital patients who may have been exposed to a risk of hepatitis C. A patient became infected with hepatitis C following a procedure at Epsom Hospital in Surrey. The hospital traced the infection to a health

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care worker who had since moved to the Princess Alexandra Hospital at Harlow in Essex. The Public Health Laboratory Service was contacted and lookback Incident Management Teams were set up at the two hospitals. The lookback exercise covers a two month period between 1 November 2000 and 9 January 2001. The review of patients' case notes is likely to cover around 200 patients in total and three of these are babies. The risk of hepatitis C infection from an infected health care worker to a patient during a surgical procedure is very small. Letters to patients at risk and their GPs will go out on 10 May. Press briefings will be held at both hospitals.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation to publish "Making a Living: Social Security, Social Exclusion and New Travellers". The main findings will show that most of the travellers were able to secure some paid work over the course of a year, although the type and work periods varied. Access to conventional employment is limited and exacerbated by a mobile lifestyle, but mobility can also be an asset as travellers can access casual work such as crop-picking. Some travellers receive Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC), which is seen as welcome additional income. The most frequently claimed benefit was Income Support (claiming as a lone parent) followed by Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and WFTC. Problems with making benefit claims are often experienced, primarily because of the "No fixed abode" classification which can require daily signing on in addition to collection of payments from the Benefit Agency office. Some travellers with children have also had problems with Child Benefit payments, both acquiring the benefit and also trying to obtain their money.

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PREVIEW OF WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY 14 MAY 2001

Monday 14 May 2001

Margaret Hodge to lay before Parliament the regulations for Part III of the Disabled Discrimination Act which underpin the new rights of access to goods, facilities, services and premises for disabled people which come into force in October 2004.

Lord Hunt to attend the World Health Assembly in Geneva.

[TO BE CONFIRMED] Formal hearing on the Prison Service.

Statistics to be published on producer prices and children in care.

Tuesday 15 May 2001

Statistics to be published on:

- 1) geographical variations in health including an in-depth analysis of mortality by area and comparable and comprehensive patterns. It is an analysis of data for the 1990s which is already in the public domain.
- 2) UK health statistics on population, morbidity, health determinants including smoking and drinking, healthcare expenditure, health education, resources and comparison with Europe.
- 3) consumer prices (April), economic trends and e-commerce.

Wednesday 16 May 2001

Publication of unemployment and average earnings figures.

Jack Straw to speak to the Police Federation.

Chris Smith to announce the new Children's Laureate.. An announcement on 1 March confirmed renewed Government support with a further £10,000 to allow a new Laureate to be chosen when Quentin Blake, the first Laureate, completed his two year term. He was appointed in May 1999. The award celebrates a lifetime's achievement by a writer to illustrator of children's books. It aims to get children's books widely discussed and enjoyed by readers of all ages and raise awareness of the creativity and excellence of children's literature.

Michael Meacher to attend OECD ministerial meeting on sustainable development (Paris, continues on 17 and 18 May).

Thursday 17 May 2001

Local election "purdah" period begins.

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Jacqui Smith to give a speech at the launch of Barnardo's report on young people in public care at the House of Lords. The Barnado's report covers the whole of the UK and includes a review of research on looked-after children, a summary of practice and policy initiatives in sample local authorities and views of young people who have been or still are in care. Overall the report will show that new policy and practice initiatives are beginning to emerge in the UK to help children and young people in the care system enjoy their schooling and achieve results comparable with their peers and it will identify a number of issues to be addressed. But improvement is not consistent across all parts of the UK and being in public care is still very much a lottery.

Geoff Hoon to speak to the London Chamber of Commerce.

Statistics to be published on retail sales, rail freight 2000, national curriculum assessments, 2000, and civil service diversity.

Friday 18 May 2001

Michael Meacher to speak on countryside recreation.

PRIME MINISTER

From: Helen Mason
Date: 27 April 2001

cc. Jeremy Heywood
Jonathan Powell
Alastair Campbell
Anji Hunter
Kate Garvey
Private Office

PROVISIONAL BUSINESS

I attach the usual package:

- (a) narrative for next week;**
- (b) preview of the week after next;**
- (c) the grids;**



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WEEK 18

PRINT: 27 APRIL 2001

30 Apr- 6 May	Mon 30	Tues 1	Weds 2	Thur 3	Fri 4	Sat-Sun 5-6
Main News	<p>PM: London Press Club Awards</p> <p>Armstrong: more New Deal Comms areas</p>	<p>May Day demos</p> <p>Blunkett: IPPR speech</p> <p>DPM: help for market towns</p>	<p>Milburn: £100m to improve NHS maternity units (speech to RCM)</p> <p>Deep Tube PPP preferred bidders (tbc)</p>	<p>Chx/Falconer/Boateng: volunteering package</p> <p>Straw: key-note crime spch inc international crime survey</p>	<p>Byers: key-note speech on UK economy & US</p>	
Statistics	<p>SPADS (Mar); w/c spec educ needs lending & credit; local popn & vital stats 99 Nationwide hse prices; student support; EC/GfK consumer confidence</p> <p>Straw: £220m to locl communities to fight drugs</p> <p>Hodge: Basic literacy skills for parents</p> <p>Raynsford: action on affordable rural homes</p> <p>Darling: NDLP Advisers</p> <p>Straw: Muslim Council Q&A (tbc)</p>	<p>CIPS manufacturing (Apr) CJD stats</p> <p>Ministers meet teacher unions re workload etc</p> <p>Cooper: DH expert gp rept on air pollution</p> <p>Morris: to announce 28 new Training Schools</p> <p>Raynsford: tackle over-use of B&B for homeless</p> <p>Morton before ETRA Ctte re SRA (1600)</p> <p>TSC hearing with new MPC member (1045)</p> <p>Jay/ Williams: response to Neil rept on standards in the Lords</p> <p>Fire service Inspectors report</p> <p>Roche: Immigration exemptions (pq)</p> <p>Byers: extd maternity leave to 12 mths</p>	<p>Lending/monetary (Mar) CBI dist trades; CIPS construction (Apr)</p> <p>Blunkett: 1m Indiv Learning Accounts/Ufl/Learn Direct</p> <p>O'Brien: decisions on licensing review</p> <p>Darling before Soc Sec Ctte re spending plans (1045)</p> <p>Roche: EU immigration policy</p>	<p>NDLP (Feb); Halifax hse prices; construction (Mar) Lab Mkt Trends (Mar) CIPS services (Apr) Ernst +Yg Investmt rept (2000)</p> <p>00.01 NAO rept on NHS clinical negligence</p> <p>OECD World Economic Outlook (preliminary)</p> <p>DTI: Post Office closures 2000/01 & Govt support action</p> <p>CHI rept on Swindon screening mistakes</p> <p>Blackstone: rept on educ maintenance allces</p> <p>Jowell: streamlining equal pay tribunal cases</p> <p>Hain: tougher enviro regs on oil and gas licenses</p> <p>Roche: Immigrat'n Svce complaints audit</p>	<p>School exclusions 99/00; Youth justice pledge (Feb); bankruptcy (Q1); SMMT new car registrations</p> <p>DFEE: research on effect of exclusions</p> <p>Meacher: air quality indicators & action on poor LAs</p> <p>O' Brien White Paper on Fire Service (tbc)</p> <p>O'Brien: progress on tackling forced marriages</p> <p>Hunt: £35m for NHS dental surgeries</p> <p>Whitty: Road sfatety in schools</p> <p>Whitty: £2.7m for crash testing</p> <p>PIU rept on Global Health (tbc)</p>	<p>Hoon: GMTV re F&M</p> <p>Quin: Newcastle</p>
Other Government News						
Europe	<p>EP plenary</p> <p>Levy : New York</p> <p>HoC: DCMS PQs; SS</p> <p>HoL: CJ Bill ctte. Debate on Chinook crash</p> <p>Dando trial (jury in)</p> <p>Royal Coll of Midwives congress, Torq'y (30-4)</p> <p>Nat Pensioners' Convention, Bpool (30-2)</p> <p>WHOrg: tobacco control</p>	<p>Fraud Bill remg stgs</p> <p>HoC: FCO PQs</p> <p>HoL: CJ Bill ctte</p> <p>Bichard: Edn Select Commtte</p> <p>Champions League semi final (or 2)</p> <p>Anniversary of 1997 General Election</p> <p>GPs day of action</p>	<p>EP plenary (2-3)</p> <p>Mooney: depleted uranium</p> <p>HoC: MCO PQs & PMQs</p> <p>HoL: Con debates on learning and HR in Iran</p> <p>Woodhead speech on inspection standards</p> <p>Balfour Beatty AGM (re Ilisu Dam)</p>		<p>CDS mtg in Brussels</p> <p>HoC: not sitting</p> <p>Fisher & Wright judicial review case resumes</p>	<p>Foreign Ministers informal Sweden (5-6)</p> <p>International Day of Midwives (5)</p>
Parliament						
Political						
General						

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WEEK 19

PRINT: 24 APRIL 2001

7-13 May	Mon 7	Tues 8	Weds 9	Thur 10	Fri 11	Sat-Sun 12-13
Main News	BANK HOLIDAY Blunkett: gifted & talented summer schools	Straw: sentencing review (tbc)	Milburn: £325m for hospital equipment	Interest rates - midday	Milburn: NHS waits inc outpatients (Q4)	FA Cup Final (13)
Statistics Other Government News	w/c HMS Tireless to leave Gibraltar DETR: PFI projects 00.01 Clarke: tagging of goods re crime prevention (tbc)	CBI regional trends Mergers (Q1); index of distribution Blunkett: DFEE rept BIE pamphlet (tbc) Clarke: con doc on sex offenders law review (tbc) Stuart: new NHS menu (tbc) HO: Intnt'l policing protocol (tbc) Hodge: support for outdoor play schemes	Byers: confirm paternity leave inc adoption Morris speech to choir schools conf DFEE/CPAG rept on free school meals Moonie before Defence Ctte re GWI & DU (1030) MPC meeting (9-10) O'Brien: con doc on animal testing (tbc)	Index of production (Mar) Births & deaths 2000 Traffic 2000; hse building (Mar); Lab Mkt Trends Blunkett speech to CYWU on youth policy & DFEE: ConneXions card contract awarded Meacher speech on bio-diversity	ONS travel & tourism (March) Hutton: SSI rept on children in care Hunt: Hep C lookback exercises	
Europe Parliament Political General	Chx: ECOFIN; Empl & Soc Affairs Coun PM: speech to PES Congress, Berlin Rowntree rept on social exclusion and new travellers Adult learners week	[ECJ judgement on working time regs due] HoC: SO & LCD PQs Jiang Zemin visits HK UEFA Champion's League semi final 2nd leg (or 9)	PAC HoC: NI PQs & PMQs Europe Day Cannes Film Festival (9-11)	ECB Gov Coun HoC: HMT PQs RCGP conf on HIV (10-11) Inquest on Camb's wrong blood case	 1st Anniversary Tate Modern	 RCN: Nurses Day (12) Italian gen elec (13)

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WEEK 20

PRINT: 27 APRIL 2001

14-20 May	Mon 14	Tues 15	Weds 16	Thur 17	Fri 18	Sat-Sun 19-20
Main News	Lord Archer's trial w/c Corus redundancy notices (poss)		Unemployment & Average earnings (Apr)	LOCAL ELEC PURDAH		
Statistics	Producer prices; w/c Children in care inc educ	Consumer prices (Apr) Variations in health & UK health stats (ONS) Econ Trends (May); e-comm inq (ONS)	Under 5s (Jan)	Retail sales (Apr) Rail freight 2000; nat curric assessments 2000 civil service diversity	Meacher speech on countryside recreation	
Other Government News	w/c Hunt: pilots for NHS digital interactive TV w/c Hodge: lay Disab Discrim Regs (tbc) Stuart: NHS & digital TV Hunt: World Health Ass-embly, Geneva	Blunkett: speech on adult learning Prince of Wales opens Eden Project, Cornwall	Straw speech to Police Federation Bank of England Inflation Report Chris Smith: children's laureate Meacher: OECD Min Mtg on sus dev, Paris (16-18)	Jacqui Smith speech on children in care Hoon speech to London Chamb of Commerce		
Europe	Cook/Hoon: GAC & Defence Ministers; Industry Coun (14-15); EP plenary (14-17)				EU ban on UK meat trade expires	
Parliament	HoC: DSS PQs	HoC: DH PQs	HoC: WO PQs & PMQs	HoC: MAFF PQs		
Political						
General	Samaritans Week Adult Learning Week TSSA annual conf, Torquay (12-17)	Police Fed annual conf (15-17) US Fed Open Mkts Ctte Int Day of Families	UEFA Cup Final McVeigh execution AUT annual conf, Scarborough (16-19) FBU annual conf (16-18)	UNISON nat forum (18-20) Cricket: Eng v Pakistan 1st test at Lords Pre-School Learning Alliance annual conf FDA annual conf, London	Duke of Kent in Crete re battle anniversary (18-21)	RCN Congress (20-24)

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WEEK 21

PRINT: 27 APRIL 2001

21-27 May	Mon 21	Tues 22	Weds 23	Thur 24	Fri 25	Sat-Sun 26-27
Main News	Rail Reg deadline for Railtrack recovery; fares increase; Summer timetables		Chx speech to CBI Annual Dinner			
Statistics	UK trade (Mar/Apr) CML mortgage survey (Apr); pub sec finances (Apr)	Denham speech to RCN Congress	Vehicles (Apr); prison popn to 2008	CBI industrial trends (May); ONS Health Quarterly; investment (Q1) civil service staffing	Asylum (Apr) ; UK output, income & expenditure (Q1)	
Other Government News	w/c UCAS applications for 2001 entry Milburn: speech to child care conf Chris Smith speech to Equity DFEE: intervene in Bradford LEA	Raynsford: launch Qual Mark for Builders Meacher: environment awards forum	Milburn speech to NHS Confederation DH: RCS rept on faulty hips		OECD rept on school management HM Insp Fire Service rept Blunkett: Any Questions	
Europe	Cohesion Forum; Culture informal (20-22) WTO rept on US export subsidies (FSCs)	Nick Brown: Agric Coun (22-25)	ECB Gov Coun			
Parliament	HoC: HO PQs	HoC: DETR PQs	HoC: DfID PQs & PMQs	HoC: DFEE PQs		
Political		NEC				
General	RCN Congress, Harrogate (21-24) British Cardiac Soc annual mtg (21-24) POA annual conf, Southport (21-25) MIND Week Multiple Sclerosis Week	Marks & Spencer financial results Int Biodiversity Day		ASEM Foreign Ministers, Beijing (24-25)	ACPO conf, NEC Birmingham	Clinton speech to Hay Festival on conflict (26) Cyprus elecs (27) NATFHE annual conf, Scarborough (26-28) Scottish FA Cup Final (26)

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WEEK 22

PRINT: 27 APRIL 2001

28 May-3 June	Mon 28 Whit Recess	Tues 29	Weds 30	Thur 31	Fri 1	Sat-Sun 2-3
Main News	BANK HOLIDAY	CIVIL SERV HOLIDAY				
Statistics Other Government News	w/c DH: heart disease & cancer overviews w/c Jowell: rept on employment of offenders	SPADS (Apr) ; lending & credit (Apr) Morris: speech to NAHT annual conf Hunt speech to Haemophilia Society Cook: NATO Ministerial, Budapest (29-30) DETR: Conservation Awards 2000	00.01 HMLR hse prices (Q1); GCSEs & A levels 99/00; social services spending 99/00	New Deal; monetary & financial (Apr)	00.01 Audit Comm rept on NHS fraud NATS PPP completion Concessionary fares scheme extension (not London) Boateng: code of practice on volunteering HO: Sex Offenders Act into effect	
Europe Parliament Political General	Straw: JHA Coun (28-29) Half-term holidays	NAHT annual conf NZ Appeal Court re spec forces book	EP plenary (31-31) HM Queen State Visit to Norway (30-1)	Hunt: Health Coun Kashmire ceasefire due to expire Irish referendum on Nice Treaty Cricket: Eng v Pakistan at Old Trafford World No Tobacco Day		GMB annual conf, Brighton (3-7) CWU annual conf (3-8)

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WEEK 23

PRINT: 27 APRIL 2001

4-10 June	Mon 4	Tues 5	Weds 6	Thur 7	Fri 8	Sat-Sun 9-10
Main News	Straw speech to Youth Justice Board		Interest rates (midday)	LOCAL ELECTIONS		
Statistics	CJD (May) Council Tax 2001/02 (final)	CBI dist trades (May) Share ownership 2000	Graduate teachers	Index of production (Apr) Hse building (Apr); Lab Mkt Trends (Jun)	NHS waits (Apr); ONS travel & tourism (Apr); youth justice pledge (Mar)	Irvine speech to minority lawyers conf (9)
Other Government News	DSS rept on pension- ers incomes internat- ional comparisons Whitty: speech to CWU	Cook before FAC re European Council mtg MPC meeting (5-6)	Straw speech to Crime- stoppers UK NATO Defence Minis- terial (6-8) PHLS repts on chlamydia Blackstone speech on student performance		Cook: Elliott Lecture, Oxford (tbc)	
Europe		ECOFIN ; Internal Market Coun	Comm: company tax study (tbc) ; Internal Mkt & Consumer Affairs Couns	ECB Gov Council; Envir- onment Coun		
Parliament						
Political						
General	GMB annual conf, Brighton (to 7) CWU annual conf (to 8)	Kenneth Noye appeal World Environment Day	Eng v Greece World Cup qualifier Guinness appeal (or 12) Women's Institute annual conf	BMA senior hosp staff conf Mothers' Union 125th anniversary service, Westminster Cathedral	BMA Junior Docs conf Iranian Pres elec Anniversary of Brig Saunders' murder	Duke of Edinburgh's 80th birthday (9) Bar Council AGM (9) Infant Deaths Foundation annual conf (9) MSF annual conf, East- bourne (9-12)

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WEEK 24

PRINT: 27 APRIL 2001

11-17 June	Mon 11	Tues 12	Weds 13	Thur 14	Fri 15	Sat-Sun 16-17
Main News	w/c Cullen rept on Ladbroke Grove (tbc)	Tube PPP judicial review application hearing	Unemployment & Average earnings (May)		PM: European Council, Gothenburg (15-17)	00.01 Birthday Honours (16)
Statistics	Producer prices (May)	Consumer prices (May)		Retail sales (May); Econ Trends (June)	Homelessness (Q1)	
Other Government News	GMC hearing on Bristol heart doc	PM: President Mbeki visit (12-14)	PM/Bush: NATO Coun Straw speech on involuntary manslaughter BRTF rept on shop-keepers DFEE: new anti-drugs website	Blunkett: study support evaluation rept Chx speech to Inst for Jewish Policy Research	MOD: announce RAF withdrawal from Germany	
Europe	Empl & Soc Affairs Coun (Info & Consultation Directive) Cook: GAC; EP plenary (11-14)			EU/US Summit		
Parliament						
Political						
General	WHO/FAO conf on BSE (11-14) Carers Week AEEU Policy & Rules Conf (11-15) UN Day Against Drugs					UNISON annual conf, Brighton (17-20) Trooping the Colour (16) Le Mans 24-hour race (16-17) Paris Air Show (16-24)

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WEEK 25

PRINT: 27 APRIL 2001

18-24 June	Mon 18	Tues 19	Weds 20	Thur 21	Fri 22	Sat-Sun 23-24
Main News						
Statistics			UK trade (Apr/May) CML mortgage survey (May); pub sec finances (May)	Vehicles (May)		
Other Government News	Milburn speech on NHS personnel policies FCO conf on GM, Bangkok (18-25)	Macdonald speech to conf on SRA Meacher speech to IEA on water	Meacher speech to UNISON on H&S	Hutton speech on human rights & NHS		
Europe	Fisheries Coun	ECOFIN ; Agric Coun (19-20)		Culture Coun; ECB Gov Coun		
Parliament						
Political						
General	UNISON annual conf, Brighton (to 20) ASLEF annual conf, Scarborough (11-15)		BMA GPs annual conf, London (20-21)	Summer Solstice	UN Special Session on HIV/AIDS (22-27)	UNISON annual conf, Brighton (17-20) Trooping the Colour (16) Le Mans 24-hour race (16-17)

10 DOWNING STREET

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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WEEK 26

PRINT: 27 APRIL 2001

25 June-1 July	Mon 25	Tues 26	Weds 27	Thur 28	Fri 29	Sat-Sun 30-1
Main News	Blunkett: White Paper on educ reform (tbc) w/c Auld rept on criminal justice system					
Statistics Other Government News	Asylum (May); Investment (Q1) PM: Motorola Youth Parliament G8 conf on global drugs economy, London (25-26)	Balance of payments (Q1); nat accts (Q1) Internet access (Q1) Pub sec accts (Q1) Chris Smith speech to CBI tourism conf Hutton: speech on NHS advocacy Morris: dinner for city academy	Mortgage lending NHS Week (27-5) Chris Smith speech re lottery monitoring	Popn Trends (Summer) Injury & poisoning 99 Cook to West Africa (28-30) (tbc)	Lending & monetary (May) Straw: gambling review	HMT: reduced rate lorry VED into effect (1) Hoon/CDS: 85th anniversary of Somme, Paris
Europe Parliament Political General	GAC Refugee Week RMT annual conf, Scarborough (25-30) Wimbledon Tennis (25-8)	Research Coun GLA State of London debate Int Day Against Drug Abuse & Trafficking	Telecom Coun; Transpt Coun			New EU Presidency (1) Anderson: tourism summit, Bruges BMA annual mtg (1-5)

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MAIN BUSINESS IN WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY 30 APRIL 2001

Monday 30 April

[1230] Prime Minister's speech to the London Press Club Awards.

The Chancellor returns from Washington, following the meeting of the IMF Committee. There is likely to be continuing focus on the UK/US economy and EU interest rates this week, given that the OECD will publish their World Economic Outlook (preliminary) on Thursday 3.

Hilary Armstrong to announce funding for 22 new areas in round two of New Deal for Communities. Each winning scheme will receive approximately £50million over 10 years (totalling more than £1billion) for the regeneration of one neighbourhood of between 1,000 and 4,000 households. In each area community-based partnerships will be invited to form and take responsibility for the regeneration of their neighbourhoods. Areas being invited to bid are: Birmingham, Brent, Coventry, Derby, Doncaster, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Hartlepool, Islington, Knowsley, Lambeth, Lewisham, Luton, Oldham, Plymouth, Rochdale, Salford, Sheffield, Southampton, Sunderland, Walsall and Wolverhampton. New Deal for Communities is a key element in the Government's strategy to tackle social exclusion and to bridge the gap between the poorest neighbourhoods and the rest of the country. The programme addresses issues like low educational achievement, poor job prospects, high levels of crime and poor health. Regional publicity is planned in the areas that will benefit.

[3.30] Charles Clarke to announce £220 million for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). This will give local communities – CDRPs include representatives from local authorities and the police - the resources to combat drugs in their areas. He will visit an estate at Brixton. The funding was announced in the Budget.

Nick Raynsford to publicise steps taken to increase affordable housing in rural areas. He will visit Dorset to see examples of schemes which have benefited since the Rural White Paper came into force. This included doubling the number of units delivered through the Housing Corporation's rural programme in small settlements over the next three years, encouraging local authorities to fund more affordable housing in rural areas, and better use of provisions in the planning system. The Government is also providing £250million over the next three years to enable key workers (particularly teachers, nurses and other essential health workers) on low incomes to buy their own homes through the Starter Homes Initiative. The deadline for outline bids was 20 February and funding allocations are expected to be announced in June.

[0930] HSE to publish statistics on signals passed at danger (SPADs). Figures show that levels have not been falling in recent months, although the monthly total is well down on the total a year ago. Total SPADs for March 2001 were 43 compared with 51 a year earlier. Serious SPADs (trains going well passed red lights or particular lights attracting a disproportionate number of SPADs) comprised 18 of the 43 this

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year, compared with 15 of the 51 last year. "Serious" category results are slightly up; this is not seen as "shocking", but the trend in serious SPADs does suggest that no improvement is being made. This is likely to be a low profile publicity move via the internet.

Alistair Darling to launch the national rollout of compulsory Personal Adviser meetings for lone parents on income support with a youngest child of school age. The scheme began in three pathfinder areas (Fife, South Tyneside and Shropshire) on 30 October 2000 and feedback has been positive. Out of 200,000 participants, more than 83,000 have found work under the New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP), and more than 23,000 have taken up training or education since the scheme was introduced nationally in October 1998. Personal Adviser meetings will ensure that more lone parents have access to crucial advice and support. Attending a meeting at their local JobCentre will be a condition of benefit entitlement, but lone parents will not be forced into work or training. Timing of interview will be on a rolling programme based on the age of their youngest child (2001/2 for youngest child aged 13 to 15 years, 2002/3 for nine to 12 years, and 2003/4 for five to eight years. NDLP is planned to be extended to other lone parents on low incomes from Autumn 2001.

Malcolm Wicks and Margaret Hodge to announce new approaches in plans to help improve literacy and numeracy skills for people on Jobseekers Allowance and parents using Neighbourhood Nurseries. People who complete basic skills training will receive financial rewards and allowances would be reduced for people who refuse to improve their skills. No-one will be expected to take part in assessment and/or training that is not appropriate to them. New approaches will be piloted in the nine pathfinder areas – one in each English region - from September. On Wearside job seekers will be offered an additional £10 per week, with £100 more when they improve their skills. In Nottingham unemployed people who have literacy and numeracy skills needs but refuse to take up learning risk losing their Jobseekers allowance for a short period. In Leeds, financial incentives will be tested. Additional local support through the new Neighbourhood Nurseries Initiative (launched on 26 January and creating up to 900 Neighbourhood Nursery centres across England) would offer help to parents by nursery staff who will be trained to help identify and address parents' literacy and numeracy needs. (NB No start date yet and no details of funding for Neighbourhood Nurseries basic skills element.)

[19.30 TO BE CONFIRMED] Jack Straw to attend a question and answer session with members of the Muslim Council of Great Britain at the School of Oriental and African Studies. Francis Maude and Simon Hughes have also been invited, but have not yet confirmed attendance.

Tuesday 1 May

May Day anti-capitalist demonstrations. Likely to dominate the news.

"National Doctors Day" (as described by Doctor Magazine) – an unofficial GP day of action to take place, not endorsed by the BMA. Some GPs are critical about extra burdens being placed on them as a result of targets in the NHS Plan, and feel that the target to recruit 2000 extra GPs is too low. Approximately 100 plus surgeries around the country will be closed except for emergency care. Up to 1,000 surgeries may also

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be expected to be involved in one form or another, including many in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. It is thought to be the first times clinics will have closed because of an industrial dispute by doctors since the setting up of the NHS in the 1940s.

[12 noon] David Blunkett at the IPPR. He is expected to say that the Government is taking the right approach to educational reform and set out challenges for the future. Focus on four priorities; changing culture in primary schools; development of effective delivery mechanisms; modernising secondaries; teacher recruitment and reform.

Deputy Prime Minister to visit one of the 100 market towns to benefit from the £37million funding announced in the Rural White Paper. He will announce that an additional 20 towns – mainly in the North West and South West - which have been severely affected by the foot and mouth outbreak will be added to the Market Towns Initiative. An announcement on more money for tourist board advertising is currently planned at the same time.

[09.30] Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) to publish a report which suggests that an estimated 1.5 to 3.5 days' life expectancy could be gained per person (0.2 to 0.5million life years in total) from a five per cent drop in particle air pollution. Generally people exposed to high concentrations of fine airborne particles are at greater risk of premature death, particularly from heart disease. The report says that the health effects of long-term pollution from particles – usually associated with emissions from cars and industry – are likely to be more significant than short-term air pollution. The size of the effect is significantly less than that of smoking but similar to the effect of passive smoking. These results will play a vital part in the consideration of policy measures which impact on air pollution. The report could be linked to recent coverage of the health risks posed by dioxins emitted by animal disposal during the F&M outbreak. There will be a technical press briefing led by CMO to emphasise that these studies deal with the effects of long term exposure to particles, and that they are not relevant to assessing the possible effects on health of pollution from pyres - exposure to which will be limited to a few weeks. The report will be placed on the Department of Health's website.

NB Michael Meacher is currently planning to attend the briefing. He will say that we are committed to strengthening the air quality strategy objective for particles, and that the report will be taken into consideration when looking at ways to achieve this.

Barbara Roche will answer a written PQ naming ethnic groups who are currently suspected of being involved in illegal entry scams. Immigration Service are committed to naming groups in this way (as agreed under the new Race Relations Act) in order to be able to crack down on scams, such as masquerading as nationals from other countries. The list of ethnic groups will be updated on a monthly basis - the significance of this PQ is that it will be the first time the ethnic groups are named (the current list is tamils, kurds, pontic greeks, roma, somalis, albanians, afghans and ethnic chinese presenting a malaysian or japanese passport or any other travel document issued by malaysia or japan). The CRE have been fully involved in all this, but there is still potential for this to be flammed up in the media.

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Estelle Morris to announce designation of 28 additional Training Schools from September bringing the total in England to 82. The schools will receive up to £100,000 a year over a two year period. They will be expected to pioneer new approaches to school-based initial teacher training (ITT) work and to become involved in research. More than 70 high quality applications were received. The new tranche of six primary and 22 secondary schools will build on the existing network of 39 secondary and 15 primary schools. Altogether they will share funding of £4.5million this year. Successful projects include the Nobel School in Hertfordshire which will establish a "training classroom" to allow live observation of trainees, remote viewing by university staff and playback facilities to strengthen the opportunities for constructive feedback, and the Saffron Walden County High School in Essex working with Comberton Village College in Cambridgeshire to explore a model school's potential contribution to Fast Track ITT.

Baroness Jay and Lord Williams to present the response to the recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (Neill Committee) on standards of conduct in the House of Lords. The response accepts that there should be a Code of Conduct to reduce uncertainty and possible confusion about Members' obligations to reveal their interests, but that it should be proportionate to the House's functions and therefore would not need to be similar to the detailed and complex code and written guidance found in the House of Commons. In their activities outside Parliament, Members of the House should have a right to the same degree of privacy as other citizens, when those activities have no bearings on the role as Members of Parliament. The importance of demonstrating that the highest standards of conduct are being maintained is also emphasised.

Nick Raynsford to announce proposals for a Taskforce to tackle reliance of bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation for homeless households. Currently there are some 9,000 households placed in B&Bs. Numbers have doubled under this Government, exposing a weakness in an otherwise strong housing record. The problem is concentrated in a small number of local authorities which will be offered practical assistance to improve their performance. More than half the 9,000 households in B&Bs can be found in just 11 local authorities (LIST TO BE SUPPLIED). A B&B Taskforce would look at best practice and promote it to the poorest performers among the local authorities. No new money is available, but about £1million will be found from existing housing budgets to assist the taskforce. This is not a money-driven initiative as B&B is often the most expensive accommodation available. It is aimed at improving standards to the level of the very best who have demonstrated that it is possible to accommodate homeless households in better and often cheaper alternatives.

[16.00] Sir Alastair Morton before the ETRA Ctte to discuss the role and development of the Strategic Rail Authority. He will probably be asked why the SRA have not yet produced a strategy to develop the rail network (£60bn was allocated to take this forward from the transport 10yr plan).

Her Majesty's Fire Services Inspector to publish "Managing a Modernised Fire Service", a report which examines how to cope with its changing role and needs. The report identifies the benefits of a partnership approach and recommends Leadership Action Teams to take ideas forward. An Agenda for Change suggests a number of

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recommendations, some for early action, including: local teams comprising members of the fire authority, trade unions and principal officers; standard job descriptions for firefighters; an audit of procedures and information, the new role of firefighter in the community to feature in every aspect of training.

Statistics on CJD to be published.

[1730] David Blunkett to meet representatives of the teaching unions to discuss workload issues, recruitment, etc. A statement may be issued following the meeting.

Wednesday 2 May

[1000] Alan Milburn to announce a major programme of improvements to NHS maternity units in a speech to the Royal College of Midwives annual conference in Torquay. £100 million will be invested. This mirrors the successful programme to improve all the hospital casualty units that needed it and continues the theme of modernising and investment in the NHS for the week. The speech will also look at the recruitment and retention of Midwives and he is expected to set a target of an extra 500 midwifery returners into areas with the highest vacancy levels, in the next year. £1m midwife returner package with bursaries of £1,500 for all returning midwives to practice training. May also announce package of improvements to antenatal and child health screening.

[MIGHT MOVE TO FRIDAY 4 MAY] London Transport (LT) Board meeting and announcement of the preferred bidders for the two deep Tube PPP (Public Private Partnership) infrastructure contracts. Contract One is BCV (Bakerloo, Central, Victoria) and Contract Two is JNP (Jubilee, Northern, Piccadilly). Being a preferred bidder does not mean that the consortia of construction/engineering companies named has been awarded the contract, simply that negotiations will continue with them alone for the moment. The third contract is for the sub-surface lines (Circle, District, Metropolitan) and will be announced later. Currently the Underground services more than 275 stations with around 2.6million passenger journeys being made each week day, totalling around 866million passenger journeys per year. The announcement is for LT to make because the contract is being led by LT. However, Lord Macdonald will use the occasion to promote and defend the Government's policy on the Tube.

[0001] David Blunkett to congratulate the one-millionth person to open up an Individual Learning Account (ILA). The Government target of reaching one million ILAs by March 2002 has therefore been reached almost a year early. An average of 3,000 accounts are opened each day. More than half the people who have opened an ILA since January have not been in learning in the last three years. The milestones of 100,000 learndirect learners and 2.5m callers to the learndirect Helpline have also been reached, along with the one-thousandth learndirect centre for the University of Industry. Mr Blunkett also to announce an additional £76m funding to expand the learndirect information and advice service. Learndirect helps to tackle the skills shortage by promoting universal, on-line access to learning opportunities. Learndirect courses cover everything from communications technology to basic literacy and numeracy.

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Mike O'Brien to confirm that the Government will be implementing proposals for a new licensing system set out in the recent White Paper. We have already taken forward the proposals in the White Paper for a tougher approach to nuisance pubs and clubs. This second stage announcement confirms that we will legislate for flexible opening hours – potential for up to 24 hour opening seven days a week, subject to consideration of the impact on local residents; increased access for children to licensed premises to promote more child- and family-friendly pubs, but licensing authorities would be able to restrict or deny access for children to unsuitable premises; local authorities rather than magistrates to grant permission to sell or supply alcohol; a system of “personal licences” issued for ten years; a single integrated system for licensing premises; and appeal to magistrates’ courts rather than Crown Court. A Licensing Bill will be published as soon as Parliamentary time allows.

Stephen Byers to confirm that the Government will extend unpaid maternity leave to six months. Together with the increase in the amount of paid maternity leave (announced in the Budget) this will mean that mothers will be able to take a year off in total (six months paid and six months unpaid). Green Paper follow up.

Barbara Roche to announce full implementation of the regulatory scheme for immigration advisers. The scheme – under Part V of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 – will come into effect from 30 April 2001. It will crack down on rogue advisers – a manifesto commitment – highlighting that the Government is determined to raise the quality of immigration advice and protect people from unscrupulous or poor quality advice. Certain voluntary bodies, such as the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB) will be given a temporary block exemption from the scheme. This will apply to voluntary organisations who have committed themselves to the Community Legal Services (CLS) Quality Mark.

Thursday 3 May

[TO BE ADVISED] Chancellor, Lord Falconer and Paul Boateng to announce several steps to promote volunteering. Elements likely to include a mentoring programme supported by £12 million from the Spending Review, including funding for the National Mentoring Network to provide a central resource and a Mentoring Fund to provide grants of up to £50,000 a year for mentoring organisations and schemes. This is to help achieve the Chancellor's target of 50,000 new mentors who will be trained, supported and providing real help to people they befriend. Also an £18m Active Communities fund, which supports national and local efforts to expand the capabilities of the community and voluntary sectors. Applications can be made by a wide range of groups, including religious or special interest organisations, equal opportunities partnerships or community based action groups. Grants vary and can range from £3,000 to as much as £230, 000 (based on last year's allocations). This initiative complements the recent call to employers to allow employees one day of paid leave each month to become involved in volunteer or community activity. [NOTE: This package may be extended to include a new

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scheme under the Children Fund and possibly a proposal for "gap year" volunteering.]

Jack Straw key-note speech on crime. Trends in crime. Action the Government has taken. Resources deployed. Action to increase police numbers. Underlying causes of crime and how we are tackling them. Looking ahead to implementation of the Government's proposals to increase the number of people arrested and sentenced. Linked to this:

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a big
event.

Home Office to publish international comparisons on criminal justice statistics for 1999. Comparative information from 32 selected countries from 1995-99. Countries include EU member states, some Eastern and Central European countries, including Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Africa and the USA. Statistics demonstrate that recorded crime in the UK is falling faster than the EU average except for violent crime. Average recorded crime remains unchanged in EU countries, but has fallen by 10% in the UK. Violent crime rose by 11% in the EU, 16% in England and Wales against a fall of 20% fall in the USA. England and Wales had one of the lowest homicide rates in Western Europe: London's rate was below the average for EU capital cities. Property and drug trafficking offences was higher in the EU than in England and Wales. Motor vehicle theft fell by 27% in England and Wales, while rising by 7% in the EU. England and Wales had the highest per capita prison population rate in Western Europe, after Portugal, though it was well below that for USA and some Eastern European countries. This bulletin excludes the period covered by the latest published recorded crime figures for England and Wales.

[00.01] Report from the National Audit Office on clinical negligence. Around 10,000 new claims were received in 1999/00. At 31 March 2000, there were 23,000 outstanding claims valued at £2.6 billion - although not all these claims will be successful. Claims expected to arise from incidents that have occurred but not been reported are valued at a further £1.3 billion. The total annual charge to the NHS has risen seven-fold since 1995/96. The average time from claim to settlement is five and a half years. In 65 per cent of settlements below £50,000, the legal and other costs of settling claims was more than the damages awarded. John Denham will respond.

OECD Economic Outlook. HMT have said they do not expect their forecasts for the UK to be significantly out of line with HMT's although they may be a bit below those issued by the IMF and the Commission last week. HMT will provide detailed briefing.

Consignia to announce that in the year to 26 March, a record yearly number of approx 550 post offices were closed. Alan Johnson will at the same time announce examples of post offices which have reopened thanks to £2 million Govt fund to help with the costs of relocating and refurbishing rural post offices. This money could help maintain or re-open post office facilities in areas where the traditional post office is closing and establish up to 200 community post offices in the UK. Other measures to be announced could include the removal of the introductory payment (equivalent to 25 per cent of the first year's salary) required from new subpostmasters, a new senior role in the Post Office to look at options and alternative solutions for avoiding rural closures, revision of the Code of Practice on

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Post Office closures to ensure that everything possible is done to protect the network, and the relaunch of "Counters Club" by the National Federation of Subpostmasters to help promote and strengthen the retail business linked to sub post offices. Negotiations on the Universal Bank continue, but it is unlikely that there will be an announcement to coincide with the post office closures.

Report from the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) into histopathology services at four NHS trusts, especially in Swindon. This follows failings by a locum histopathologist (ie. blood specialist) which led to the biggest ever re-check of test results. The report is critical of the planning and supervision of locum medical cover. There are not enough safeguards in the employment of older doctors who may not be up to the job. Monitoring is poor. It is recommended that the Government should strengthen its code of practice on locums and there should be central records kept and used to guard against the use of poor doctors. Govt is already taking action in a number of areas to tighten up supervision of locums. John Denham will respond.

[09.30] Baroness Blackstone to publicise the success of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) pilot projects. An independent evaluation has shown that five per cent more 16 and 17 year olds in the pilot areas are staying in education because of the allowances, demonstrating their positive effect in raising the aspiration of young people to enter further education. Depending on their parents' income (less than £30,000 per year), young people staying on in full-time education after Year 11 are offered the security of a weekly income of up to £40 per week. Across all pilot areas, gains range from three to 11 per cent, with greater benefits in the rural areas. In the rural pilot area, more young males eligible for an EMA stayed in education than in the two comparable rural areas without EMA. EMAs are now being tested across one-third of the country. The evaluation began in September 1999 in 15 pilot areas and 11 control areas. It was undertaken by a consortium of four organisation, headed up by the Centre for Research in Social Policy (CRSP) at Loughborough University.

Richard Caborn to welcome the Ernst and Young Investment Monitor report for 2000 which places the UK as Europe's favourite investment location. UK inward investment projects are up 13 per cent on 1999 (575 in 2000 from 508 in 1999), more than twice the rate of European investment growth. There were 2,243 investments across Europe (five per cent up on 1999). The UK investment market share in Europe is up by two per cent to 26 per cent with France the next largest at 15 per cent. The three fastest growth areas are telecoms, business service and software which represented 45 per cent of all projects in 2000. Greater London is the top European region for investment. The UK's lead for attracting US investment is highlighted.

Tessa Jowell to announce the outcome of the consultation on Simplifying Tribunal Procedures.

Peter Hain to announce regulations to strengthen protection for the environment in future oil and gas licensing and also announce licence awards in the 19th round of offshore petroleum licensing. At least seven exploration wells will be drilled in the White Zone – an area with world class potential for significant petroleum discoveries

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- providing a significant boost for jobs in Scotland and North East England. The provisions of the Habitats Directive were considered when decisions were made. The stronger regulations which apply the EU Birds and Habitats Directive to offshore petroleum licensing will be relevant not only to habitats already identified as needing conservation or protection, but also those that are likely to be formally identified in future. Seismic surveys will also need DTI consent for the first time. Regulations also cover authorisations for pipe-lines and approval of decommissioning plans, emphasising the importance of marine habitat and species protection. These measures are good for the environment and will ensure the benefits of oil and gas activity without harm to the environment. But environmentalists will say the measures do not go far enough and are a fudge to allow more oil and gas exploration. Harm to whales, dolphins, rare coral and the Darwin Mounds because of petroleum activities may be raised.

Barbara Roche to publish the annual report 2000 of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's (IND) independent Complaints Audit Committee (CAC). The CAC monitors the effectiveness of IND's procedures for investigating formal complaints about the conduct and efficiency of staff in IND and, since 199, to comment on the quality of service issues. The report will say that CAC remain generally satisfied about IND's formal complaints system, but have made more specific recommendations for improvement than in previous years. Recommendations include: implementation of appropriate training programmes without delay with strict monitoring of progress; greater emphasis to quality assurance and performance monitoring; development of steps to develop a more customer friendly attitude and to reduce "blame culture"; reduction of complaints awaiting resolution; and efforts to publicise and increase the visibility of complaints procedures and the role of the CAC. Acknowledgement and praise given to: a more noticeable trend of positive improvements; only one case with an element of substantiation out of 47 complaints of racism; a decrease in complaints against interpreters and from returning residents; no substantiated complaints from British citizens of ethnic minority origin (four were received in 2000).

Friday 4 May

[10.30] Stephen Byers to make a keynote speech on the competitive position of the UK in weathering the downturn in the US at the Social Market Foundation. It will trail the launch of the Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI), an initiative from the Science and Innovation White Paper to help SMEs (small- and medium-sized enterprises) win contracts from the Government for research and development projects. The speech will also cover the Government's approach to industrial support.

[0930] DFEE to publish statistics on Permanent Exclusions from Schools and Exclusion Appeals, England 1999-2000. Figures are expected to show another significant fall in exclusions (10,400 in 1998-99). Schools are making good use of in-school and out-of-school units to help disruptive children with their behaviour and to catch up with their learning problems, compared with 1997 when many more children were excluded with little prospect of completing their education satisfactorily and a high prospect of drifting into crime. Statistics are based on information collected in the Annual Schools Census. They provide data on

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permanent exclusions and exclusion appeals lodged by parents, including breakdown by gender, age, ethnicity and special educational needs in primary, secondary and special schools in England.

A research report examining the outcomes in secondary education for children excluded from primary school will also be published. It will give data for a total of 726 pupils excluded at primary stage in 1993/94 in ten local education authority areas.

[0930] Michael Meacher will confirm that the COMEAP report (published on Tuesday 1 May) will have a significant impact in the review of the air quality target for particles. Urban areas in 2000 had the lowest number of days (17) of moderate or higher air pollution since current records began in 1993. This compares with 30 days in 1999 when a hot summer led to increased ozone levels, and 23 days in 1998. He will also welcome progress made by local authorities in completing their reviews and assessments of air quality. Results so far will show that the number of bad air days in urban areas is continuing to fall but it needs to fall still further if national air quality objectives across the country are to be reached. Almost 90 per cent of local authorities in England have completed their reviews and assessments. A list of authorities which have fallen behind the suggested timetable will also be published. A very small number will be unable to complete the process until the autumn.

[TO BE CONFIRMED] Mike O'Brien to publish White Paper "Modernising the Fire Service". It brings together a wide range of work including modernising the legislative framework, national structures, organisation and funding arrangements, as well as the programme of work needed to achieve the outcomes and how it will be managed. The fire service is a public service with a good record of success with widespread public confidence and support. It has delivered targets, including reducing accidental fire deaths in the home by 20 per cent. The vision of a modern fire service sets out a clear statement of purpose, taking account of new ideas, identifies progress, and establishes key priorities and lays down timescales for work that still needs to be done. The Government sees no need for radical change in the structure and organisation of a succeeding fire service with fire brigades remaining locally organised, democratically accountable bodies, delivering their services to local people.

Mike O'Brien to announce progress in tackling forced marriages and the joint action plan between the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. To date much progress has been made in the UK and overseas. The package of care for victims of forced marriage in the UK is still being developed and should be completed later this year. It will include: a short, educational video of forced marriages for schools which will be sent out with a teachers pack during the autumn school term and an FCO leaflet tailored for specific audiences by the Asian Family Counselling Service, which will be distributed during the school summer holidays. A joint press briefing aimed at minority ethnic media (Baroness Scotland, Baroness Uddin and Lord Ahmed may also attend).

[0930] Lord Hunt to announce allocation of £35 million in 2001/2 for improvements to premises and equipment in the General Dental Service. Increased levels of

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funding will go to areas with high levels of NHS committed dentists; in areas of high deprivation and to practices with larger numbers of dentists. Intended to make a real difference to patients' experience of NHS dentistry and make commitment to the NHS even more worthwhile for dentists. Dentists who benefit will be required to show that they are maintaining or increasing the level of NHS work over a set period.

Lord Whitty to announce £10million to pilot a network of road safety schemes for children in deprived areas. Trained volunteers will teach practical safety skills to children aged six and seven years out on the streets where the lessons are best learned. About 200,000 children could be trained. Local authorities in England have been invited to bid for cash. Priority will be given to poorer areas as this is where higher than average numbers of road accident casualties are found. The money will support local scheme co-ordinators – with up to £30,000 a year for three years. After that it is hoped that funding will be developed from other sources. Figures for 1998 show that there were 5.9 deaths per 100,000 population on Britain's roads, the lowest rate in Europe. Since the 1980s, road accident deaths have fallen by nearly 40 per cent and serious injuries by 45 per cent. But the child pedestrian death rate was 0.84 per 100,000 children, compared with 0.87 for France, 0.72 for Germany and 0.48 for Sweden.

Performance and Innovation Unit to publish "Tackling the diseases of poverty" - a report on health in developing countries. It is a package suggesting action to meet the Okinawa/Millennium targets for HIV/Aids, tuberculosis and malaria. The report will propose a holistic package of measures, including a Global Fund for Health to reduce the burden of diseases in the poorest countries. This would make existing products (drugs, vaccines, etc) available to the poorest countries and create incentives for new, more effective products to be developed by guaranteeing that they will be purchased. The report will emphasise that there is a strong case for the current impetus to tackle health and poverty issues in general and the burden of communicable disease in developing countries to be a platform for improved international co-ordination on these initiatives.

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PREVIEW OF WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY 7 MAY 2001

During the week

Ministry of Defence to announce the date that HMS Tireless will leave Gibraltar. Repair work was completed on 23 March and the repair was successfully tested on 16 April. Representatives from Gibraltar and Spain were onboard during this test. HMS Tireless remains safe; the repair was safely completed in Gibraltar to the highest standards following a leak of coolant water from pipework in the reactor compartment on 19 May 2000. Radiation levels within the submarine have remained normal and there has been no safety hazard to crew or the general public. Because of MoD's strict safety standards towards any nuclear repair work, the repair took some months to complete. Carrying out this repair demonstrates the value and utility of Gibraltar to the Royal Navy and shows the key role that Gibraltar plays in maintaining the UK's contribution to international security.

Monday 7 May 2001

David Blunkett to announce summary of progress on initiatives for gifted and talented summer schools, including updates on Advanced Learning Centres and primary pilot projects from local initiatives.. Likely to include details of national initiatives such as world class tests, a national programme of 500 gifted and talented summer schools for 10 to 14 year olds this year, one summer school for each local education authority or Education Action Zone (with a budget of £4.5million equal to last year), the Xcalibre project to develop a website directory of resources to help teachers of gifted and talented pupils, and reference to the Green Paper proposal to develop a centre for gifted and talented youth.

[0001] Charles Clarke to announce the first four successful bidders in the first round of the 'Chipping of Goods' initiative. £4.5million is available to fund demonstrator pilots showing how property crime can be reduced throughout the retail supply chain. The scheme involves the use of RFID (radio frequency identification) electronic tags on merchandise in the supply chain, either on individual items or on shipments such as pallets, plastic crates or roll cages. Widespread adoption of RFID is expected to lead to crime reduction and improvement of supply chain management and e-commerce operations. Chipping systems might also provide evidence admissible in a court of law which can help convict those responsible for 'fencing' and selling-on stolen merchandise.

Tuesday 8 May 2001

[TO BE CONFIRMED] Jack Straw to announce a Sentencing Review.

Margaret Hodge to announce a new £4million grant to help provide outdoor play facilities for under-fives with child care providers in disadvantaged areas. The grant will be administered by local Early Years and Development and Childcare Partnerships. They will be encouraged to develop creative and innovative solutions to the challenges of establishing outdoor play which can exist in many disadvantaged

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areas – because outdoor space is not available or because good quality equipment and facilities cannot be afforded. In some areas, a mobile facility might well be appropriate or the grant might be used to fund trips to high quality play and learning experiences. Although the scheme is primarily aimed at group provision, partnerships will also be required to consider the needs of local registered childminders. Public access, where feasible, would be encouraged, but this is not a specific aim. The money is not new and comes from existing Early Years and Childcare Unit budgets.

Charles Clarke to publish a consultation document on the Review of Part 1 of the Sex Offenders Act. This is largely concerned with tightening up the current requirements for sex offenders to register with the police. The register would not empower police to place any restrictions on offenders or, in reality, prevent them from re-offending. The document is likely to reignite all of the debate on “Sarah’s Law” (News of the World) and attract criticism that the Government is not doing enough until it makes details of sex offenders publicly available.

Alan Milburn to launch the new NHS Menu and Recipe Book at the annual conference of the Hospital Caterers Association. The NHS Plan promised a new menu by 2001. TV personality Lloyd Grossman and a team of leading chefs have been working with a group of NHS catering managers, nurses and dieticians to fulfil this. There will be a new standard menu showing the range of meals on offer for use across the NHS and, for the first time, a national list of dishes with a common recipe, including more than 40 which have been created by the chefs working with Lloyd Grossman. Trusts will be encouraged to use this to begin the process of ironing out the variations in quality currently seen across the country. There will also be a 24-hour “All Hours” service to meet the needs of patients outside normal mealtimes and as a lighter alternative to the main meals. Hospitals have been notified of this. It will all be packaged in the NHS Recipe Book. Work to date has been well received by the British Diabetic Association, the Vegetarian Society, Help the Aged, Diabetes UK and the Alzheimers Society, as well as the Hospital Caterers Association whose chairman has been involved throughout. There will be an interactive web-based database through which the NHS Estates Better Hospital Food Team and NHS catering services will be able to use to make changes, introduce new dishes and spread good practice very quickly.

Wednesday 9 May 2001

Alan Milburn to announce £325million funding for hospital equipment.

Stephen Byers to confirm new arrangements for paternity leave.

Department for Education and Employment and Child Poverty Action Group to publish a report on Improving the Take-up of Free School Meals. It is estimated that 20 per cent of the 1.8million children entitled to a free meal do not take it up. Key factors which limit take-up include: fears by parents that children will be stigmatised or embarrassed; pupils having free packed lunches are readily identified by the distinctive packaging of their free meal; belief by parents and children that the quality and choice of food on offer and overcrowded cafeterias deter pupils; if there is no hot meal service parents generally feel they can supply a better packed lunch

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from home; not all parents are aware of their entitlement or do not know how the system works at the school their child attends. Good practice suggestions: ensure parents are aware with regular reminders, let parents see what is on offer, vigilance by schools to discourage teasing and name calling of pupils on free school meals; cashless systems such as swipe cards to help eliminate identification at tills; ensure food offered provides sufficient choice and variety for free school meal pupils who follow restricted diets. Based on research by the Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London.

Lewis Moonie to appear before the Defence Committee on Gulf War illnesses and depleted uranium.

[TO BE CONFIRMED] Mike O'Brien to publish a consultation document on animal testing.

Thursday 10 May 2001

[1200] Interest rates published.

David Blunkett to speak at the CYWU Conference at Plymouth. The theme of the speech will be Lifelong Learning and the Connexions Service. He may announce the partner for the Connexions Card.

Michael Meacher to speak on biodiversity.

Friday 11 May 2001

Alan Milburn to announce NHS waiting times, including outpatients, for the last quarter of 2000.

Statistics on travel and tourism during March 2001 to be published. They will show the first effects of foot and mouth disease on the tourism industry.

John Hutton to publish "Developing Quality to protect Children" the national report of the inspection of children's services in local councils.

Lord Hunt to announce that two health authorities are taking action to contact hospital patients who may have been exposed to a risk of Hepatitis C. The review of patients' case notes is likely to cover around 200 patients in total and three of these are babies.

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average except for violent crime. Average recorded crime remains unchanged in EU countries, but has fallen by 10% in the UK. Violent crime rose by 11% in the EU, 16% in England and Wales against a fall of 20% in the USA. England and Wales had one of the lowest homicide rates in Western Europe: London's rate was below the average for EU capital cities. Property and drug trafficking offences was higher in the EU than in England and Wales. Motor vehicle theft fell by 27% in England and Wales, while rising by 7% in the EU. England and Wales had the highest per capita prison population rate in Western Europe, after Portugal, though it was well below that for USA and some Eastern European countries. This bulletin excludes the period covered by the latest published recorded crime figures for England and Wales.

*Alan Johnson
or AC
JH
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OECD Economic Outlook. Includes the UK. Treasury closely involved. May be sentences in the report which, as happened recently, could be used out of context. HMT will provide detailed briefing.

[POSSIBLE PM - MAY MOVE] Report from the Performance and Innovation Unit (PIU) about global health. Role of the Government through its programmes in promoting improved health in developing countries, especially Africa. This may be linked with an announcement by Clare Short of a new fund amounting to £75 million to help fight AIDS and other diseases.

*7
read*

Consignia to announce that in the year to 26 March, a record yearly number of 577 post offices were closed. Alan Johnson will at the same time announce plans to strengthen the Post Office network and confirm that plans for the Universal Bank will go ahead. Measures to encourage new entrants include a new fund of £2 million to help with the costs of relocating and refurbishing rural post offices. This money could help maintain or re-open post office facilities in areas where the traditional post office is closing and establish up to 200 community post offices in the UK. Other measures include the removal of the introductory payment (equivalent to 25 per cent of the first year's salary) required from new subpostmasters, a new senior role in the Post Office to look at options and alternative solutions for avoiding rural closures, revision of the Code of Practice on Post Office closures to ensure that everything possible is done to protect the network, and the relaunch of "Counters Club" by the National Federation of Subpostmasters to help promote and strengthen the retail business linked to sub post offices.

European Court of Justice (ECJ) to hear an application by the TUC for the Court to set aside the Government's decision to provide for parental leave only in respect of children born after the Regulations came into effect in December 1999. The TUC argues that the EU Directive which the Regulations purport to implement does not contemplate such a cut-off. Mrs Blair has been representing the TUC. [NOTE: It is possible, subject to the Prime Minister's decision, that we may have announced before the case comes to court that we are changing the policy.]

Report from the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) into histopathology services at four NHS trusts, especially in Swindon. This follows failings by a locum histopathologist (ie. blood specialist) which led to the biggest ever re-check of test

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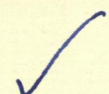
Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

From the Private Secretary

PRIME MINISTER

cc Minister for the Cabinet Office
Minister of State, Cabinet Office

CURRENT ISSUES: 26 APRIL 2001



Freedom of Information Need to agree implementation time-scale. Jack Straw has written recommending beginning with central government in June 2002.

Belgian Presidency Verhofstadt presents his Presidency priorities to the Belgian Parliament and media on 2 May.

HMS Tireless Final preparations are underway for departure of Tireless from Gibraltar in early May.

Information and Consultation Following your conversation with Persson, the Swedes are still considering how to handle this dossier in June, but have not ruled out deferring the Council.

European Court of Auditors We shall be seeking your early decision on a nominee to fill the UK seat in the Court for the next 6-year term.

Foot and mouth You know the position on policy and implementation. EU mission currently in UK reviewing handling of outbreak.

Legislation 27 Bills now introduced, and 8 Royal Assents achieved. Questions remain about how much of the current session the Opposition will agree to facilitate, if the Election is called. Defeat in House of Lords on community health councils: work is in hand to reverse at third reading next week.

Ref. AO2001/1064

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SKP 26/4/01

Corus

The company is likely to issue redundancy notices on 14 May. Meanwhile DTI is still talking to Corus and the ISTC about training/job subsidy/ISERBS packages (though the Treasury strongly opposes the second and third). Announcement of the regeneration measures is on hold.

Post Office

Negotiations with the clearing banks on the Universal Bank continue to be very difficult. You will need to settle the dispute between Stephen Byers and Andrew Smith over eligibility criteria for accounts. We will give you advice.

End of Life Vehicles

Stephen Byers has given you a note on implementation options. The most difficult issue is who should pay.

W. Stephenson

pp

RICHARD WILSON
26 April 2001

To:
P/S Sir Richard Wilson

From:
Fergus Harradence

12 April 2001

DTI
Room 816, 1 Victoria Street
SW1H 0ET

Tel: 7215 5536
Fax: 7215 5523

CABINET OFFICE
A 4941
17 APR 2001
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE No.

(F)
Fergus Harradence gc: SV
PJ
You may like to write
covering notes, esp. 4
and 5.
Ag.
23/4

MAJOR ISSUES FOR THE DTI IN THE NEXT MONTH

This note sets out some of the major issues for the DTI over the next month.

Corus

1. Decisions on government action to help steelworkers affected by the announcement of closures at Corus will need to be taken before 14th May, when the statutory period of consultation ends. This will need to involve the package of regeneration and retraining measures which has already been put together, as well as the Government's response to Trade Union proposals for a possible package under Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty and for possible measures under Article 56 (a new ISERBS). The publicity arrangements surrounding any announcement will be developed as the shape and timing of the final package becomes clearer. We will be liaising closely with DfEE and the National Assembly for Wales.

Industry and Energy Council 14/15 May

2. On the industry side, the main issue will be shipbuilding subsidies, where the Germans have fought hard to extend operating aid to counter aggressive (and under-priced) competition from Korea. There may be calls in the UK from the Trade Unions, some parts of the industry and the media to reintroduce subsidies, due to Cammell Laird having gone into receivership. Government policy is to oppose the introduction of subsidies.

Post Office

3. It is possible that a Memorandum of Understanding between the PO and the banks on Universal Banking Services will be completed and announced during April or early May. The next set of PO closure figures are due at about the same time.

Low Pay Commission Report Volume 2

4. The LPC expects to present Volume 2 of its report, covering the level of the developmental rate and the level of the accommodation offset (which employers can deduct from NMW if they provide accommodation) in early May. The LPC are likely to argue the developmental rate should apply only up to the age of 21, rather than 22 as it is at present. There is also likely to be pressure on the Government to respond quickly to the LPC's recommendations.

Working Time and Young Worker's Directives

5. A decision in the ECJ, in a case brought against the Government by BECTU, is expected on 8 May. The Working Time Regulations may need to be amended as a result of this.

Parental Leave Cut-off

6. The TUC's case against the UK over the implementation of the Parental Leave Directive is due to be heard in Luxembourg on 3 May. The TUC are arguing that the UK was wrong to implement the Directive by providing parental leave only to parents whose children were born after 15 December 1999. However, the decision on this case will not come until later in the year.

Fergus Harradence
DTI

RESTRICTED
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
FROM THE PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY

*Red by
10/14 file*



Jeremy Heywood Esq
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
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Dear Jeremy

10 APR 2001

DETR EVENTS

At last Thursday's Cabinet the Prime Minister asked Ministers to put forward proposals for policy announcements. We have a full programme designed to communicate our key messages.

Our messages include:

1. The countryside is open for business (as long as people take sensible precautions) - supporting the tourism industry;
2. Delivery in the key areas of transport, environment and improving the quality of life; and
3. The benefits of PPP for the London Underground and the downside of the Livingstone/Kiley option.

I attach supporting material on the Department's achievements and on PPP - 'Our Offer to Londoners' which we will be using as appropriate in support of each event and story.



The main events are:

April

Monday 9

The Deputy Prime Minister is today meeting key transport journalists and the Economist to publicise our transport achievements and to go on the offensive on the PPP - 'Our Offer to Londoners'.

Tuesday 10

The Deputy Prime Minister, the Chancellor and Lord Macdonald will host, with the CBI, a high level transport PPP business summit, which will outline broad PPP messages and then focus on transport and the tube.

The Deputy Prime Minister will meet Peter Hetherington (Guardian) to talk about regional policy.

Michael Meacher may be able to make an announcement of targeted emergency help for areas worst affected by Foot and Mouth.

The Deputy Prime Minister is attending a House of Lords reception in support of Chester Zoo's Asian Elephant initiative— a further opportunity to reinforce the message that many zoos are open over Easter.

Wednesday 11

The Rural Task Force meets in the morning – a number of developments (on re-skilling and other issues should come to a head then).

The Deputy Prime Minister is meeting environmental journalists in the evening, briefing on achievements and looking ahead to developments over the next few weeks.

Wednesday 11 or Thursday 12

'Open footpaths day': we are planning co-ordinated visits across the country to highlight footpaths that have opened and the progress we expect over the coming weeks. Beverley Hughes, "Footpath Minister" will be presenting her footpaths strategy. It needs to be linked to a major news story (possibly the reopening of the Royal Parks).

Thursday 12

The Deputy Prime Minister has met British Waterways today to emphasise the importance of opening up their tow paths for Easter. British Waterways will announce on Thursday that they are opening at least 1000 miles of tow paths. The Deputy Prime Minister will visit one.

Easter Weekend

This will be a key focal point for media attention, following on from the Government's efforts to increase tourism. Ministers to be out and about on footpaths and attractions across the country.

Week commencing 16 April

Nick Raynsford to announce an initiative to tackle the over reliance by some local authorities on B&B for homeless families. The initiative would highlight worst performers and set up a taskforce to spread best practice.

Monday 16 – Friday 20 April (provisional)

The Deputy Prime Minister will visit the USA for a UN environmental meeting in New York; he will also discuss aviation in Washington and if appropriate will drive home the tourist message: Britain is open for business.

Wednesday 18

Lord Whitty to announce £30m for the creation of additional Home Zones to improve the quality of life in residential streets.

Week commencing 23 April

Michael Meacher to announce £50 million of capital grants to lever in private funding to renew obsolete community heating systems in social housing with efficient and environmentally friendly equipment.

24 April

Contribution to the Prime Minister's 'Liveability' speech by announcing changes to the Supplementary Business Rates.

April Undated

• Market Towns

The Deputy Prime Minister will visit one of the 100 **market towns** to benefit from the £37m funding announced in the Rural White Paper. We intend to arrange a meeting and photocall with Ewan Cameron (Chairman of the Countryside Agency and the Government's Rural Advocate) to build on the measures already around for supporting the countryside. He may also visit a **seaside town** benefiting from the £22.5m Government package announced last week to help fishing communities and seaside towns. Some of the money will be used to help tourism and reopen coastal paths.

- **Affordable Housing**

Possible visit by the Deputy Prime Minister (or Nick Raynsford) to affordable housing schemes in rural areas made possible by the Housing Corporation's rural programme and the local authority social housing grant. Could also highlight progress on the £250 million starter homes initiative.

- **CO2 Emissions Trading**

Publication of the framework for a CO2 emissions trading scheme.

- **Publication of Leaflet on dealing with Neighbourhood Noise**

- **Cleaner Vehicle Technology Package**

This includes pilots on the use of Compressed Natural Gas in delivery lorries, refuse trucks and the use of zero emission electric vehicles by public authorities. Also possible announcement of a £30m retrofit component of the Haulage modernisation Fund and a demonstration project with DTI on hybrid and fuel cell buses.

May/June/July

There are a number of announcements scheduled for May/June although firm dates have not been set. These include:

- Announcing the milestone achievement of 2000 additional rural bus services as a result of the Rural Bus Challenge and the Rural Bus Subsidy Grant.
- The House of Lords judgement on planning and the Human Rights Act, and our response to it (early May)
- Publication of strategy to tackle ambient noise (early May)
- A number of Transport Works Act decisions on major public transport schemes, including Chester Guided Busway, Shortlands Junction and the East London Line Extension.
- National concessionary fares for pensioners and the disabled take effect from 1 June.
- Publication of a consultation paper on planning obligations (May/June)
- Statutory Instrument implementing planning arrangements for mobile phone masts (June/July)
- Government Statement on planning and heritage policy (July)

- Announcement of changes to the handling of major infrastructure projects -
subject to outcome of Human Rights judgement (July)

We will continue to keep this programme under review and expand it as much as possible. We will of course, keep the SCU fully updated as the programme develops.

I am copying this letter to Alastair Campbell, Paul Brown and Richard Abel.

*Yours
Peter*

PETER UNWIN
Principal Private Secretary

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

DEPT. ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND REGIONS

Transport

- ◆ **Transport Act 2000** - Most comprehensive transport legislation for 30 years, which set up Strategic Rail Authority, gave local authorities powers to introduce road user charging/workplace parking charges to tackle pollution and congestion and introduced half-fare concessions on buses for elderly and disabled people (benefit 7m people).
- ◆ **Transport Investment** - Increased public investment, including extra £1.8bn between 1999-02 for local and public transport, £1bn a year rail subsidy and new £7bn Rail Modernisation Fund. Substantial private sector investment, including £3.3bn for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and £13.5bn to enhance rail network (private sector investment in rail more than doubled since 1996-97).
- ◆ **Ten Year Plan (2000-10)** - £180bn investment package (42% real increase on previous ten years), with £60bn for rail and £59bn for local transport. First instalment of 10 year plan includes £8.4bn for local transport for 2001-02 (double what was spent last year).
- ◆ **Rail** - Since 1997 a 17% increase in passenger journeys (1,300 new or enhanced services added, 400 more trains and 2,000 stations refurbished); freight volumes up 22%; investment by Railtrack and Train Operating Companies at £2.5bn a year - double level inherited.
- ◆ **Light rail** - 11% increase in patronage on light rail in 1999-01, with new lines in Manchester, Birmingham, Croydon, Nottingham, Sunderland and others in progress for South Hampshire, Bristol and Leeds.
- ◆ **Buses** - Since 1997 investment doubled to £380m a year and over 25,000 new buses in service. Bus patronage up for first time last year since 1960s (0.5% in England and 2% in London). Extra £170m on rural transport delivering over 1,800 new or enhanced services so far in England (with rural bus journeys up 1998-00 from 10m to 16m). Bus quality partnerships between local authorities and operators in 130 towns and cities are increasing bus usage by 10% to 20%.
- ◆ **Motorists** - Increased road maintenance spending by 10% in 1999-00, and by a further 3% in 2000-01. Major improvements to road network (subject to tough new environmental appraisals), including 59 accepted major road schemes completed/underway since 1997. Vehicle Excise Duty cut for cars

of 1200cc or less (from 2001 for 1,500cc or less) and fuel duty on cleaner fuels cut. Ended fuel duty escalator. Increased spending on road safety, with road accidents down 4% since 1998.

- ◆ **London** - Granted London Mayor/GLA strategic transport functions. £500m pa invested in core underground network since 1997-98 (compared with £370m under Tories) and £985m extra funding. Completed Heathrow Express, Croydon Tramlink, and extensions to Jubilee Line and Docklands Light Rail. £25bn earmarked for London transport next ten years.
- ◆ **Air** - PPP for National Air Traffic Service (NATS) with Airline Group holding 46% stake. £1bn plus investment package in NATS over next ten years and repayment of NATS' £330m outstanding debt. New air traffic control centres at Swanwick and Prestwick.
- ◆ **Shipping** - Revival of shipping industry (since 1997 trading fleet under Red Ensign up 16%) and tonnage tax to boost shipping and training of seafarers.

Environment

- ◆ **Climate Change** - UK one of the few developed countries to meet its Rio target of returning greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2000. Climate change programme (with Climate Change Levy agreements) aims to reduce emissions by 23% by 2010 - well beyond our Kyoto target.
- ◆ **Air quality** - Number of days of moderate/higher air pollution in urban areas fallen by two thirds since 1996 - currently best since records began.
- ◆ **Water Resources** - Leakage reduced by 27% since the election; 12.3% average real term cut in 2000-2001 water bills (equal to £30 saving per household) and increased investment in sewage treatment and water quality.
- ◆ **Beaches and Rivers** - 94% beaches in UK now pass EU quality standards compared with 88% in 1997. Banned dumping of nuclear waste and oil rigs at sea. 95% rivers rated good or fair in 1999 compared with 92% in 1990; 31% improvement in chemical quality rivers/canals since 1990.
- ◆ **Fuel Poverty** - Home energy efficiency grants increased from £315 to £2,000 to include central heating as well as insulation and extra investment in warm homes for elderly. Since 1997 over 1 million households have benefited from improved insulation (further 1.6m to benefit by 2004).

- ◆ **Energy** - Increased support for combined heat and power (installed capacity up from 3,463 MWe end 1996 to 4,700 MWe 2001), renewable energy; cut VAT on energy saving materials from 17.5% to 5%; Carbon Trust created to promote low-carbon technology (first year budget of up to £50m)
- ◆ **Greenbelt** - 30,000 hectares added to greenbelt since 1997 (three times size Bristol); increase target for new housing on brownfield land from 50% to 60%. New presumption against development on flood plains.
- ◆ **Transport** – Traffic growth down from 8% a year in 1980s/90s to 0.3% in 2000; tougher environmental tests for new road schemes. Agreement with car makers to cut CO2 emissions from cars by a quarter. Increased spending on road safety and given local councils powers to introduce 20 mph zones and car free 'home zones'.
- ◆ **Health and Safety** - Health and safety budget increased with more inspectors and stiffer penalties; fatal injury rate in all industries down from 1.2% per 1,000 in 1993-94 to 0.7% 1999-2000; ban on white asbestos.

Countryside

- ◆ **Revitalisation** – Doubled specific rural spend since 1997-98 to £1.2bn and created Countryside Agency to support regeneration in rural areas. Rural White Paper announced extra support for farm diversification, rural transport, affordable rural housing, parish councils, rural post offices and shops (including 50% plus rate relief for village shops). Over 20 rural communities benefiting from £100m market towns initiative.
- ◆ **Access** - The Countryside and Rights of Way Act give people access to 3-4m acres of open countryside, improvements to rights of way, greater protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (area covered by SSSIs increased 14.5% since 1997 to 1.1m hectares) and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; new measures to strengthen wildlife law enforcement. The Countryside Agency has proposed designating New Forest and South Downs as national parks; increase in tree planting since 1997 to over 4,500 hectares a year.
- ◆ **Protection** - New 'brownfield land first' planning rules to protect countryside and revitalise towns and cities; replaced 'predict and provide' policy towards house building in countryside with flexible precautionary approach based on principles of sustainable development; tighten controls on out of town shopping (2000 first time in ten years that town centre

developments exceeded out of town shopping centres/retail parks). Introduced strict controls on open cast mining, quarrying and phone masts.

Housing

- ◆ **Investment** – Capital investment in social housing risen year on year to £2.6bn for 2000-01 (double what we inherited in 1997-98). Extra £5bn investment delivered through the Capital Receipts Initiative and housing allocations to local authorities since 1998, which helped repair 1m council homes. Target to ensure all social housing is of decent standard by 2010.
- ◆ **Affordable Housing** - Increase in support for housing associations and coops, including extra funds for Housing Corporation and cancelling local authority housing debts. £460m for new arms length local authority housing companies and £250m to help around 10,000 key workers on lower incomes achieve home ownership under the Starter Homes Initiative. Promoting greater choice for tenants (new choice-based lettings system) and giving tenants real say in management of their homes (Tenant Participation Compacts in every local authority).
- ◆ **Home Owners** - Home Bill provides for streamlining home buying and selling process to end gazumping; reforms to enable leaseholders to manage their property/buy freeholds with more ease; and new 'commonhold' tenure.
- ◆ **Rough Sleeping** - As at June 2000 the number of rough sleepers nationally had fallen by more than a third since June 1998. The Rough Sleepers Unit met this milestone a year ahead of schedule. Strengthened protection of homeless (Homes Bill).
- ◆ **Construction** - Stricter controls on construction health and safety and clamp down on cowboy builders with new Quality Mark. Building regulations to ensure accessibility for disabled people and on better fire safety.

Regeneration

- ◆ **Regional Development Agencies** - Established nine partnership based RDAs ('economic powerhouses') for England, with combined budget of £1.25bn a year (increasing to £1.7bn by 2003-04). In first year 1999-2000 created/safeguarded 35,000 jobs and invested £445m in regeneration schemes. Support for Regional Chambers in every English region outside London with scrutiny powers over RDAs.

- ◆ **Structural Funds** - Secured £4.6bn in EU regeneration funding for English regions (2000-06), including South Yorkshire, Merseyside and Cornwall.
- ◆ **New Deal for Communities** – £800m over 10 years to help regenerate deprived estates and reduce inequalities in health, crime, education and unemployment.
- ◆ **Neighbourhood Renewal** - £900m fund for 88 most deprived areas. Also, around 100 neighbourhood warden units established.
- ◆ **Single Regeneration Budget** – Since 1998 SRB funding of £2.5bn, which supported over 470 new community partnerships. Since 1997-98 SRB projects created/safeguarded 395,000 jobs. SRB projects secured £846m in private funding in 1998-99, compared with £263m private matched funding in 1995-96.
- ◆ **Coalfields** - Ring fenced budget of £400m (1999-2002) to regenerate coalfield communities. Coalfields Regeneration Trust approved grants to over 350 schemes.
- ◆ **Urban Renaissance** - Urban White Paper led to £1bn package of financial incentives to boost inner cities, six new Urban Regeneration Companies, £250m English Cities Fund, extra investment in parks and green spaces and new emphasis on design. Millennium villages in Greenwich and Allerton Bywater and new planning guidance (PPG3) promoting high quality development on brownfield land and in town centres.

Local Government

- ◆ **Modernising finance** – Abolished crude and universal capping of local authority spending. Council tax increases down to 6.1% this year (2000-01), from 8.6% in 1998-99. Standard Spending Assessment increased by average of 4.3% each year; compared to 1.5% in the Tories last four years.
- ◆ **Encouraging excellence** – Established Beacon Council scheme, with 70 councils spreading best practice to other local authorities.
- ◆ **Local Government Act** – Replaced CCT with Best Value regime; new powers for local authorities to take steps to promote community well-being, new streamlined local government structures including cabinet-style local government and the option of elected mayors. New ethical framework for councillors and council officers.



- ◆ **London** - GLA and elected Mayor, with Transport for London, London Development Agency and Police and Fire authorities.

REPEAT

Final version

LONDON UNDERGROUND PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

The Offer to Londoners

THE OFFER: A 21st CENTURY UNDERGROUND FOR LONDON

- **The Underground is crucial to London's role as a great, modern metropolis. It has helped give London a unique transport system, supporting business, tourism and leisure activity. And its impact goes beyond London.**
- **London Underground is the oldest underground railway in the world. Its age, and the past under-investment, means that it does not provide a modern service fit for a 21st century capital.**
- **The Government is and will remain the guardian of the national interest, and is responsible for protecting the interests of the national taxpayer. It is right for the Government to work with London Underground to ensure stable funding and a secure future for this key national asset.**
- **The Government is committed to modernise the Underground. We have no doubt that it is right to pursue the Public Private Partnership. The Tube stays in the public sector. Private companies fix the infrastructure.**
- **The PPP proposals combine public sector control of trains and stations with the best of private sector expertise in maintaining and upgrading the infrastructure. It will continue to deliver a single integrated service for passengers and a modern, safe, reliable Tube. It will drive investment of £13 billion over 15 years, with £8.7 billion spent on enhancements, and £4.3 billion on maintenance – higher sustained investment than ever before.**
- **The PPP promises to be better value for money than the present system, and is designed to satisfy the rigorous safety checks of the independent Health and Safety Executive.**
- **This document explains what the PPP offers Londoners.**

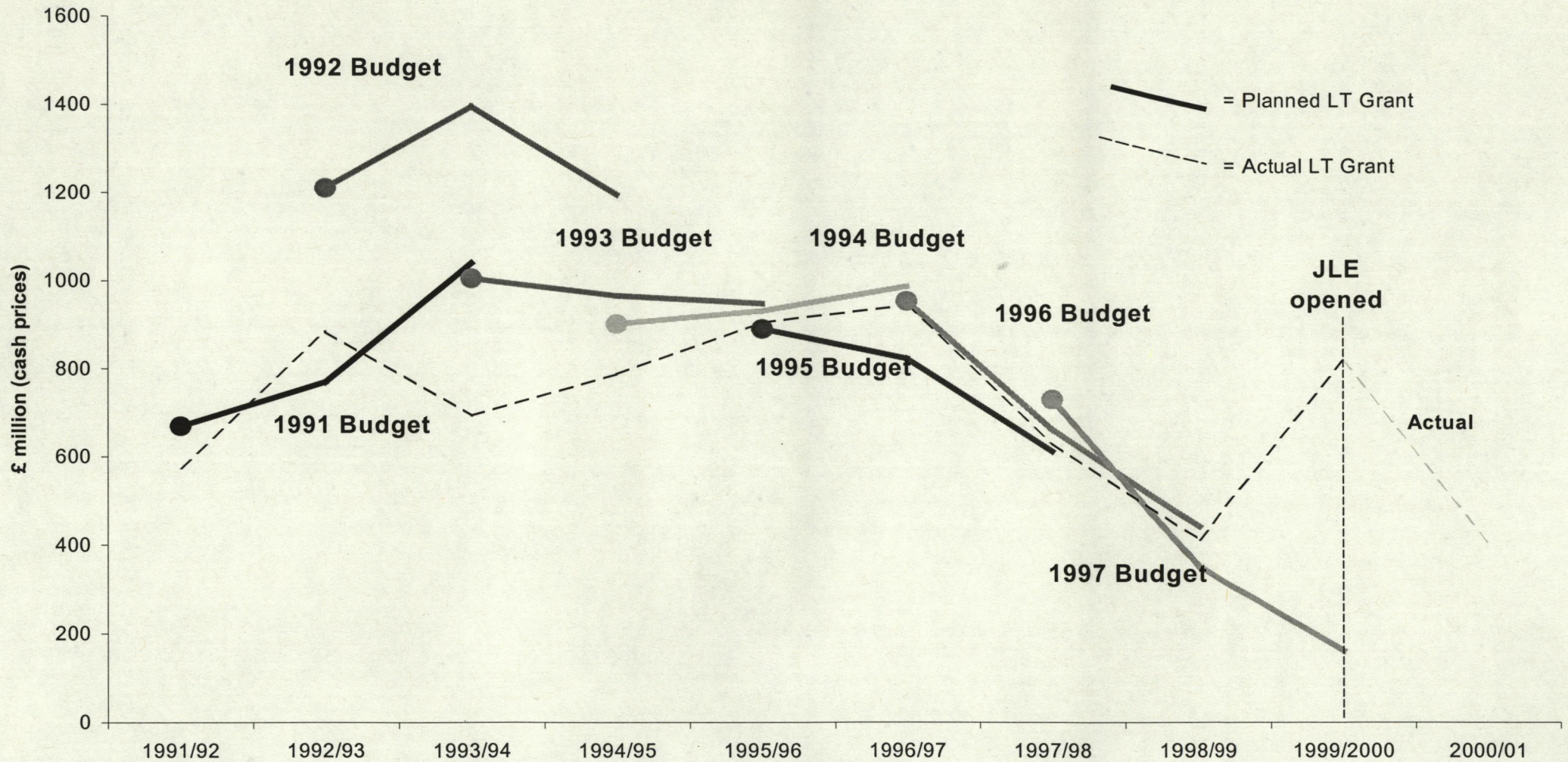
WHAT THE PPP OFFERS LONDONERS

- The public sector will continue to own and operate the Tube. The **Tube map, travelcard, and integrated services will all remain**. Private sector companies will be contracted to carry out maintenance and upgrades to track, signals, stations and other infrastructure.
- Services will be faster and more frequent – for example, a **20% increase** in capacity on the Victoria Line.
- **There will be fewer breakdowns and delays and more reliable services**. The PPP will update technology - around half of all cancellations today are caused by equipment failures. **The public sector will co-ordinate works** – so you would not see, for example, the Northern and Victoria lines closed for upgrades at the same time.
- **Every train** on the Underground will be **replaced or refurbished** over the course of the whole PPP.
- **Every London Underground – owned station** will be **refurbished or modernised in the next seven and a half years**. In the first five years of the contract, 52 out of 255 stations will be fully modernised. **Congestion problems will be tackled** at overcrowded stations like Leicester Square and Brixton. Accessibility for all – including step free access – will be provided at a number of major stations, as part of a long term programme.
- **Safety and security** will be improved. London Underground will remain **one of the safest mass transit systems in the world**. The independent Health and Safety Executive will continue to ensure Underground safety. Many more stations will have security cameras. **Every carriage will have CCTV for passenger safety**.
- Fares will continue to be set by the elected Greater London Authority under the Mayor – the PPP **does not require fares to rise faster than inflation**.
- Other Public Private Partnerships on the Tube are already delivering new trains on the Northern Line, and funding new ticketing, power and communications systems across the network.
- **All these improvements are guaranteed under the PPP, locked in by contracts**.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

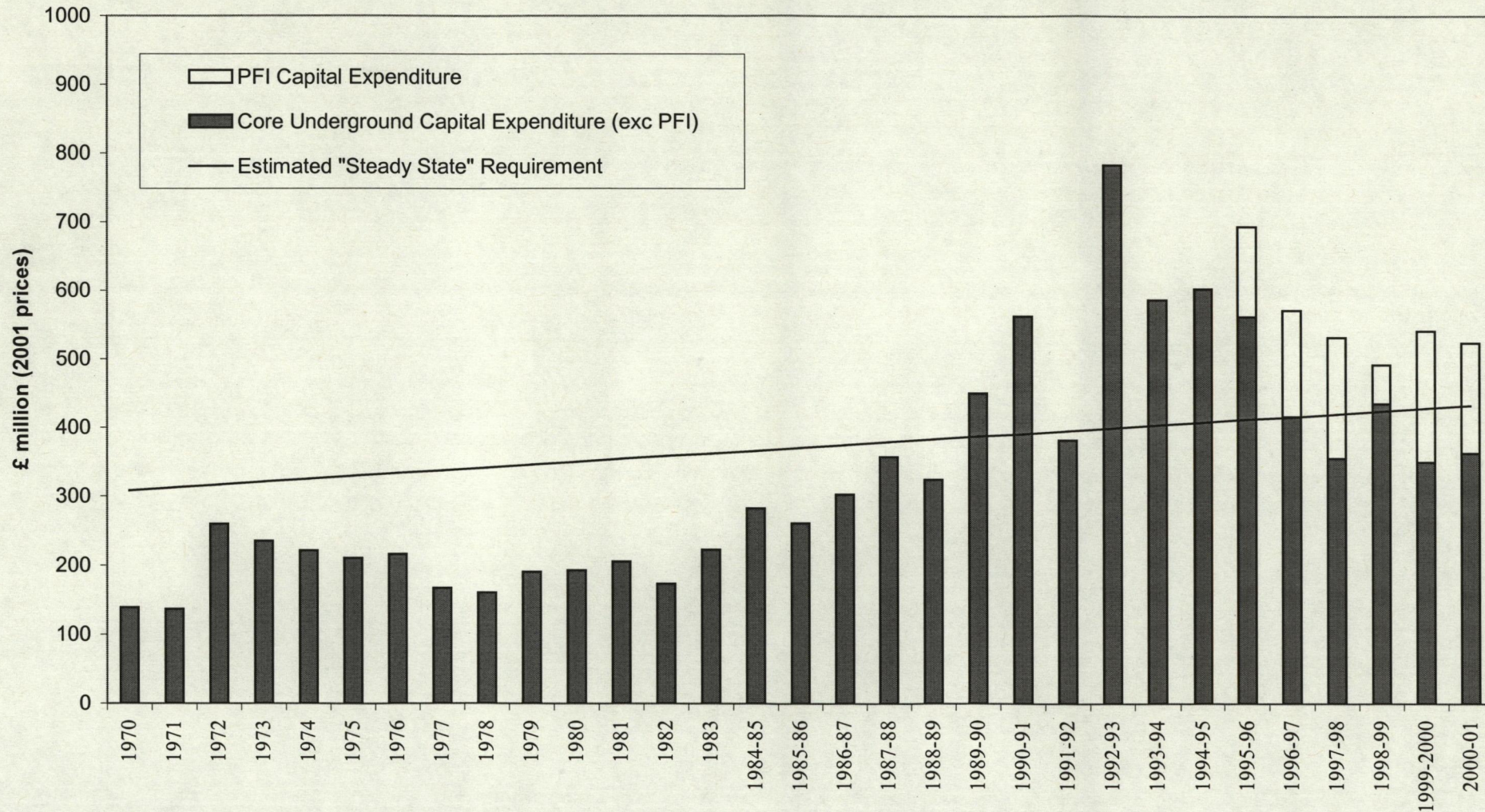
- London Underground **runs one of the safest and most highly regarded underground networks in the world.** Improvements in the last two years include: completion of the Jubilee Line Extension, modern trains on the Northern Line and Piccadilly Line, and more attractive stations. Other advances are: touch-screen **ticket machines**; more **staff to help passengers**; and more **special constables**.
- But anyone who uses the Tube regularly will know that there is a **lot more to be done**.
- For decades London Underground has not been properly funded. Moreover, Government funding was **chopped and changed** from year to year, so Tube managers could not invest effectively. (see Fig 1 and Fig 2). From 1979 to 1997 average core investment was **£395 million a year**.
- By 1997 there was a **massive investment backlog**. Since 1997 core investment in London Underground has increased to around £530m a year – better than before, but **still not enough**. **With economic growth and increased tourism, overcrowding** is now a daily problem. Passenger numbers rose above **1 billion passengers last year** for the first time (see Fig 3).
- **Too many trains are cancelled. 1 in 20** peak trains don't run, with severe knock-on effects for other services. Broken escalators take too long to fix. Some stations have been neglected since they were built.
- The Tube needs **massive investment** to bring it up to modern standards, and the PPP is designed to deliver that sooner than any other way of working.

**FIGURE 1:
STOP-START FUNDING LEVELS MADE INVESTMENT PLANNING ERRATIC AND
INEFFICIENT**



Government makes plans for LT grant three years ahead and revises its plans each year. Actual grant eventually paid was different again. All figures for total LT grant, including JLE, bus etc as well as 'core' London Underground. (The transfer of responsibilities to TfL in July 2000 means that LT grant numbers for 2000/01 are not directly comparable with previous numbers.)

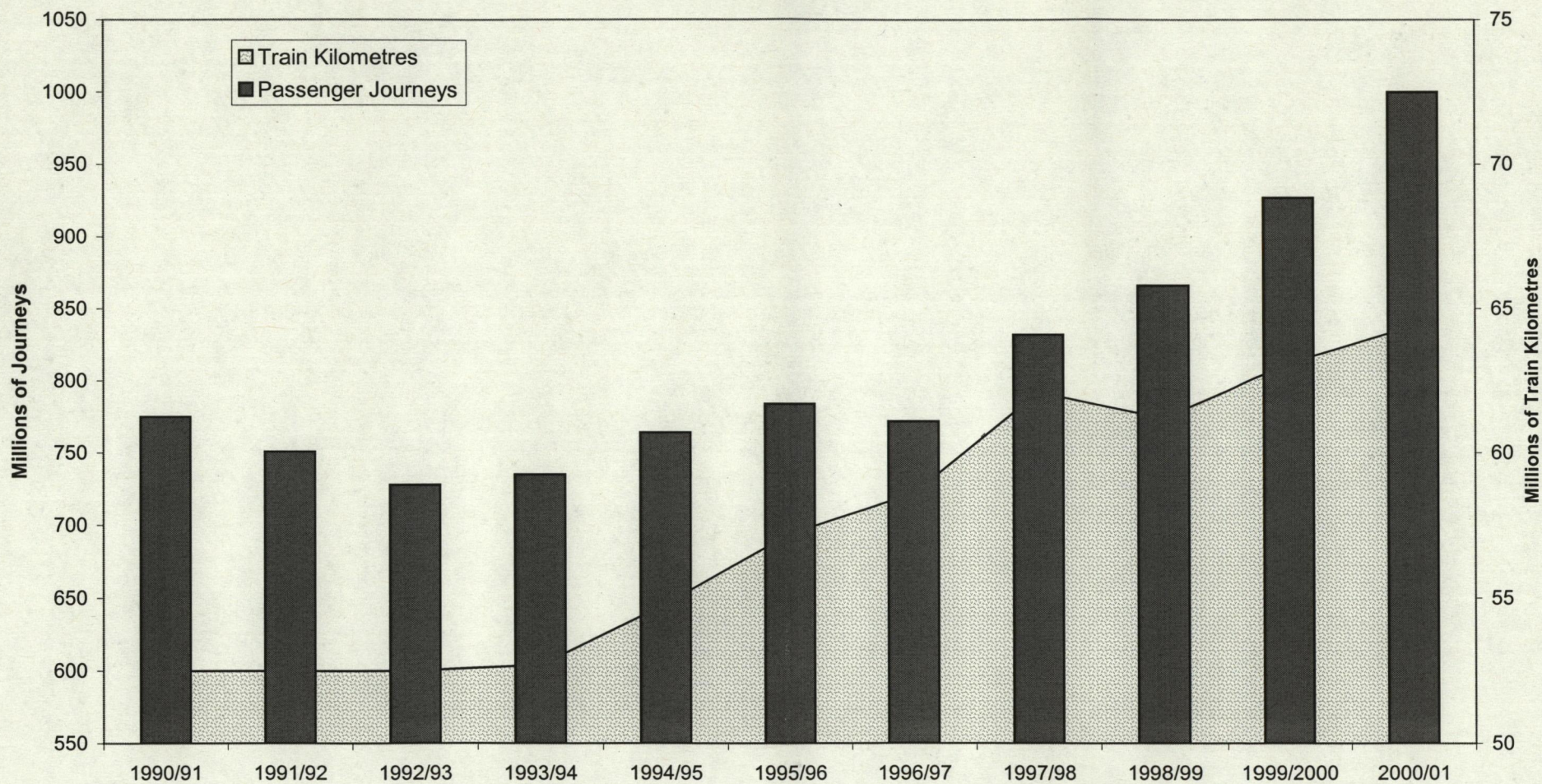
**FIGURE 2:
HISTORIC UNDER-INVESTMENT IN THE UNDERGROUND**



PFI's since 1995/96 have and are delivering new Northern Line trains and new power, communications and ticketing systems for the Underground. The above shows LU's estimate of how much it would have had to spend to deliver these PFI-delivered improvements.

Estimated 'steady state' requirement is LU's view of how much capital expenditure would have been required to maintain the system in its then current condition.

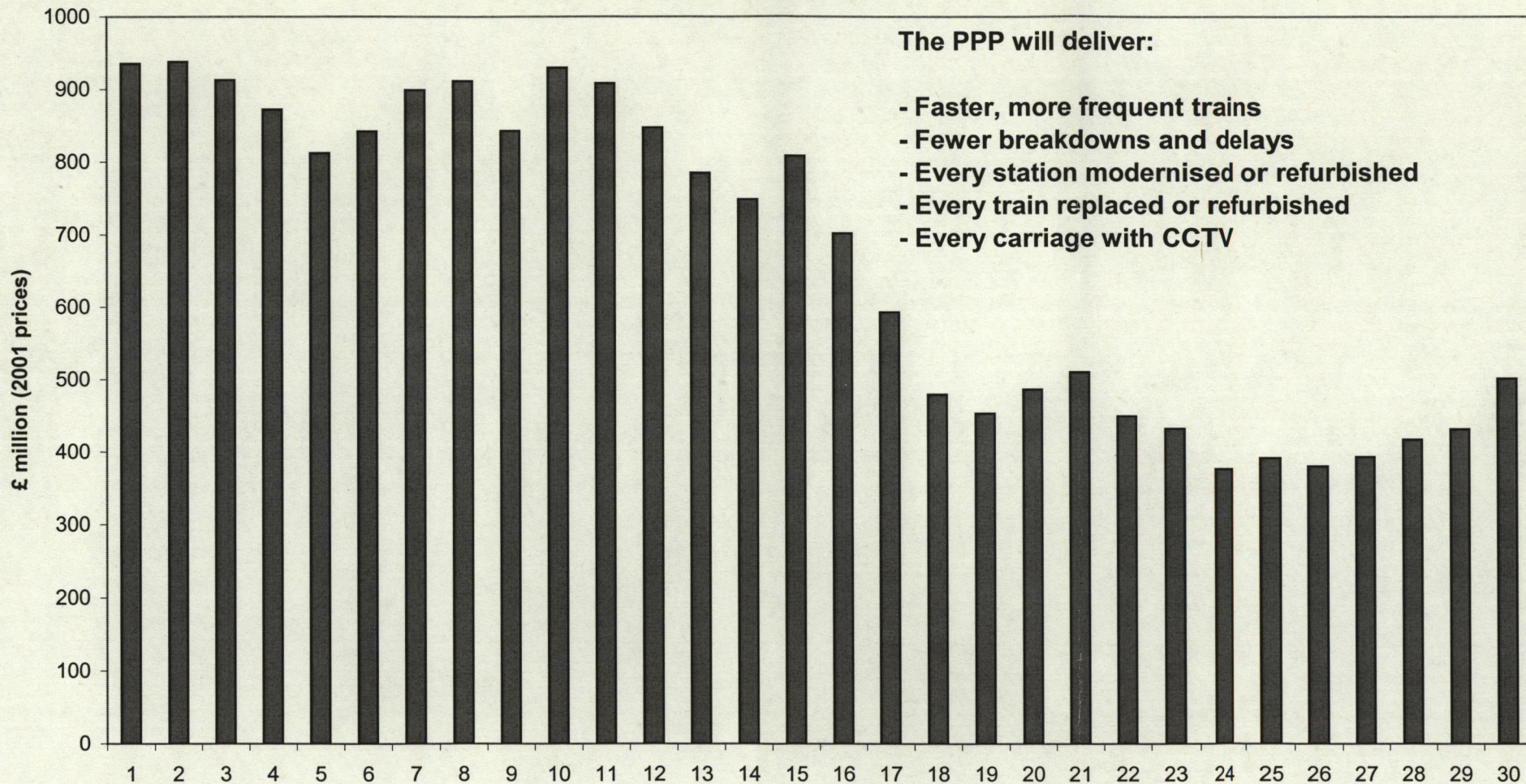
**FIGURE 3:
LU CARRYING MORE PASSENGERS AND RUNNING MORE TRAINS THAN
EVER BEFORE**



WHY PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPPs)?

- PPPs are essential to the Government's programme to renew Britain's infrastructure, with more investment, at predictable levels, for the long term. On average, PPPs have delivered **efficiency savings of 17%** compared with the public sector alternative. Since 1997, **35 hospitals have been built or commissioned. Projects covering 373 schools are underway, and the go-ahead has been given to projects covering a further 281 schools.**
- The Ten Year Transport Plan will deliver £180 billion of investment, with over £50 billion coming from the private sector. PPPs are boosting investment in **National Air Traffic Services, the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and modern tram** schemes up and down the country. These schemes have one thing in common - **without partnership with the private sector they would still be promises, not actual projects.**
- **London Underground is already working in partnership with the private sector** to deliver modern communications, reliable power supplies, and a new ticketing system. A forerunner of the PPP is already working on the Northern Line, where trains are far more reliable thanks to a new maintenance regime operated jointly by LU and its private sector partners. On the **Docklands Light Railway**, the £200 million PPP delivered the Lewisham link **two months early and on budget in 1999.** Another PPP is planned to link the DLR to London City Airport.
- **The PPP proposals bring in the first committed long-term investment programme (£13 billion over 15 years) for the Underground (see Fig 4), with higher public sector support than ever before. PPP companies will be paid by results, and charged for poor performance.** To reduce risk and avoid penalties, the companies therefore invest as early as possible in the most reliable systems and technology.
- Be clear: the public sector will run the trains and deliver the service to the public, and own the network. During the travelling day, about 12,000 London Underground staff will run the system. At night, thousands of workers in consortium companies will do what the private sector does best: manage maintenance and construction work efficiently and effectively. Some of the biggest and most respected construction and engineering firms in the world are among those bidding to work on the London Underground PPP.
- London Underground is testing all bids for best value, guided by the results of a rigorous and independently audited Public Sector Comparator.

**FIGURE 4:
HIGH AND SUSTAINED INVESTMENT UNDER THE PPP WILL IMPROVE THE
UNDERGROUND**



Indicative numbers based on PricewaterhouseCoopers briefing note published 6 December 1999.

Estimates are for private sector Infrastructure Company expenditure only, i.e. they do not include spending by public sector London Underground or by existing PFI contractors. Figures include both maintenance and enhancement spend.

WHAT IF THERE IS NO PPP?

- London Underground is a transport operator, not a construction and maintenance specialist. Management improvements to existing systems might be promised, but executive control and mayoral policies would inevitably change frequently over future decades with all the consequent uncertainty.
- Under existing systems London Underground projects are often late and suffer large cost overruns. The Jubilee Line Extension was **2 years late**, and is still not running at full capacity despite a cost overrun of £1400 million. The Central Line resignalling work is **6 years late**.
- London Underground **enhancement** works currently overrun by an average of **20% more than budget**. Even allowing for a lower overspend on **simple maintenance works**, this would amount to some **£2 billion over the next 15 years**.
- That would be more than **£650 for every London household, or fare rises of 13%** - that's 50p on a one day zone 1 & 2 Travelcard.
- Therefore, the choice is between:
 - The PPP Offer – Government/taxpayers sharing the risk of overruns and delays with the private sector, with steady investment
 - or
 - Government/taxpayers keeping the risk and passing it on to passengers and London taxpayers, with uncertain funding.

CAN WE MAINTAIN OUR HIGH STANDARDS OF SAFETY?

- London Underground is **one of the safest** mass transit systems in the world. Injuries to passengers are very rare. In terms of fatal passenger accidents, London Underground is twice as safe as Paris, and four times as safe as New York.
- Safety on the Underground is regulated by the **independent Health and Safety Executive**. **This will not change under the PPP.**
- London Underground is **improving its safety arrangements** (known as the 'safety case') with the **rigorous oversight of the HSE**. The arrangements set down in detail safety responsibilities across the network, including for the companies responsible for the infrastructure. The '273 safety issues' reported in the press recently were simply the checklist of points being reviewed under strict new regulations introduced by the Government last year.
 - The HSE **inspector in charge** of this process recently said "the number of issues should not be interpreted as evidence of HSE concern about a deterioration in safety standards on London Underground."
 - An HSE spokesperson added "There are **no serious issues of concern** on the Underground."¹
- The PPP will improve safety through **massive investment in infrastructure**. Modern equipment will produce higher safety standards.
- London Underground, still in **public sector control**, will still have **overall control of safety and safety standards**. **If a safety problem needs fixing**, London Underground can order it to be done immediately. So if there's a broken rail, **London Underground decides** whether to halt the service for an emergency repair, or whether to wait for maintenance at night. Ultimately they have the right to step in and repair it themselves.
- PPP will only go ahead providing the independent safety experts, the Health and Safety Executive, are fully satisfied.

¹ BBC News, 6 March 2001



Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

PRIME MINISTER

cc Minister for the Cabinet Office
Minister of State, Cabinet Office

C. DN
CS
SV
AW
MT
fu
Prem
SCU
R+1
Q1

CURRENT ISSUES: 6 APRIL 2001

Welfare Reform

The Policy Unit and the secretariat will give you advice on a possible agenda for the next few years. We will also advise you on Alistair Darling's proposals on Housing Benefit and on implementation of the PIU report on Winning the Generation Game.

GM Farm Trials

The National Assembly are threatening to prohibit 2 trial sites in Wales which are essential to the trial programme. It is not clear that they have the power to do this.

London Underground

You know the position.

Data Protection

Current requests for data held on individuals may generate media interest. We are preparing best practice guidelines for Whitehall.

House of Lords

Announcement of Appointments Commission's selection of 15 non-political peers likely by end April.

Freedom of Information

Need to agree implementation time-scale. The Home Office will recommend beginning with central government in June 2002.

Animal Rights Activists

Jack Straw has proposed a Ministerial group to look urgently at measures to help companies under attack by animal rights and other activists. We will give you advice.

Identity Fraud

Jeff Rooker has proposed an inter-departmental official group, led by the Cabinet Office, to study in detail measures to combat identify fraud. I suggest that you will want to agree this.

Corus

ISTC have asked for ISERBS to be resurrected: Andrew Smith has ruled this out, though Stephen Byers has yet to tell the union. DTI are discussing with the union and Corus a re-training and wage subsidy package funded from European Social Fund money and by Government: DTI has no funds for this and the Commission would probably rule it out if it were put to them. Announcement of the regeneration packages on hold. Corus likely to issue redundancy notices in mid May.

China/US

This incident seems to be moving towards resolution but there may be long term damage.

Macedonia/Kosovo

Kfor doing better on the border; Solana doing well with the Macedonians but the problem of Albanian extremism will be with us for the medium term.

European Union

The General Affairs Council on 9 April will try to dissuade the Swedes from doing too much on the Future of Europe at Gothenburg. They will also discuss EU/US relations, including on climate change.

W. Stephenson

pp

RICHARD WILSON
6 April 2001