

Ref.A083/1508

MR BUTLERPost-Election Briefing

Your minute of 17 May asked about the briefing which would be submitted either to Mrs Thatcher if she is returned or to an incoming Prime Minister after the General Election.

Procedural Matters

2. There are a number of matters which do not fall strictly under the heading of briefs but which will need to be dealt with urgently, particularly if there is a change of Government. These are listed at Annex A.

3. If Mrs Thatcher is returned we shall not need to reauthenticate the seal of the Minister for the Civil Service or to draw her attention to the security aspects of Ministerial appointments, although I will provide you with an up-to-date nominal roll after the Election. Equally, the submissions to Mrs Thatcher on Official Residences, Travel by Ministers and Questions of Procedure may well be very short. There would be no need for a wholesale reorganisation of the Cabinet Committee structure in the event of a Conservative victory, but a complete set of newly reconstituted Committees would need to be set up, and the choice of a new Cabinet would provide a natural opportunity to review the present structure and composition of Committees. I may wish to suggest a number of changes particularly on the economic side, on lines which we briefly discussed with the Prime Minister some time back.

4. The briefs on the Ministerial framework and transfer of functions are of course relevant to the formation of any Government, but I doubt whether it will be necessary to show the Prime Minister, whoever it may be, more than the summary of the Ministerial framework paper. I shall let you have up-to-date versions of both shortly, to have to hand and for your own use in advising the Prime Minister.

Subject Briefs

5. Annex B lists the briefs that would be submitted to an incoming Prime Minister (indicating which briefs would be provided for a Labour and for an Alliance Government). Annex C lists those few briefs that I would expect to submit to Mrs Thatcher if she were



returned; otherwise I would expect issues to be addressed in the normal course of business.

6. Although I expect the list at Annex B to cover all the areas on which briefing would be submitted to an incoming Prime Minister, it is possible that the titles of individual briefs will vary slightly or that one or two subjects may be combined.

7. We are undertaking a considerable amount of contingency work on possible machinery of Government changes but I would expect to submit briefs to an incoming Prime Minister immediately on only those machinery of Government changes to which his Government was specifically pledged in their Manifesto. Again, if Mrs Thatcher is returned, I may wish to suggest one or two minor machinery of Government changes.

Re

Approved by
ROBERT ARMSTRONG
and signed in his absence.

25 May 1983

Procedural Matters

1. Security Aspects of Appointment of Ministers and Parliamentary Private Secretaries
2. Appointment of a Queen's Speech Committee ✓
3. Questions of Procedure for Ministers ✓
4. Travel by Ministers ✓
5. Allocation of Official Residences ✓
6. Cabinet Precedence and Seating Plan
7. Cabinet Committee Structure
8. Authentication of the Seal of the Minister for the Civil Service
9. The Ministerial Framework ✓
10. The Transfer of Ministerial Functions ✓

NOTES

1. The submission on the Queen's Speech Committee will include a first draft of the Speech.
2. The submission on Questions of Procedure will, in the case of a new Government, cover specifically the role of Special Advisers.

Briefs for an Incoming Prime Minister

	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Alliance</u>
1. Summary and Timetable of Urgent Economic Issues	✓	✓
2. Budget	✓	✓
3. Public Sector Pay	✓	✓
4. National Economic Assessment	✓	✓
5. Incomes Policy	X	✓
6. Co-ordination of European Community Policy	✓	✓
7. Withdrawal from the European Community	✓	X
8. Main European Community Issues	✓	✓
9. European Community Budget	✓	✓
10. East-West Relations	✓	✓
11. Cruise Missiles/Arms Control Negotiations	✓	✓
* 12. Nuclear Release Procedures (including UK/US Understandings)	✓	✓
13. Future of the Nuclear Deterrent	✓	✓
* 14. Intelligence	✓	✓
* 15. Subversion	✓	✓
16. Northern Ireland	✓	✓
17. House of Commons Procedure	✓	✓
18. Open Government/Official Secrets Act	✓	✓
19. Personnel and Physical Security	✓	✓
20. Senior Appointments Selection Committee	✓	✓
21. Public Appointments	✓	✓
22. Honours	✓	✓
23. Advisory Committee on Business Appointments	✓	✓
24. House of Lords Reform	✓	X
25. Proportional Representation	X	✓
26. Devolution	✓	✓
27. Individual Machinery of Government Changes	✓	✓
28. CPRS	✓	✓

Notes

1. Separate Labour and Alliance briefs are being prepared where there are clear policy differences; "factual" briefs will be the same.
2. Briefs marked * will be Top Secret.

ANNEX C

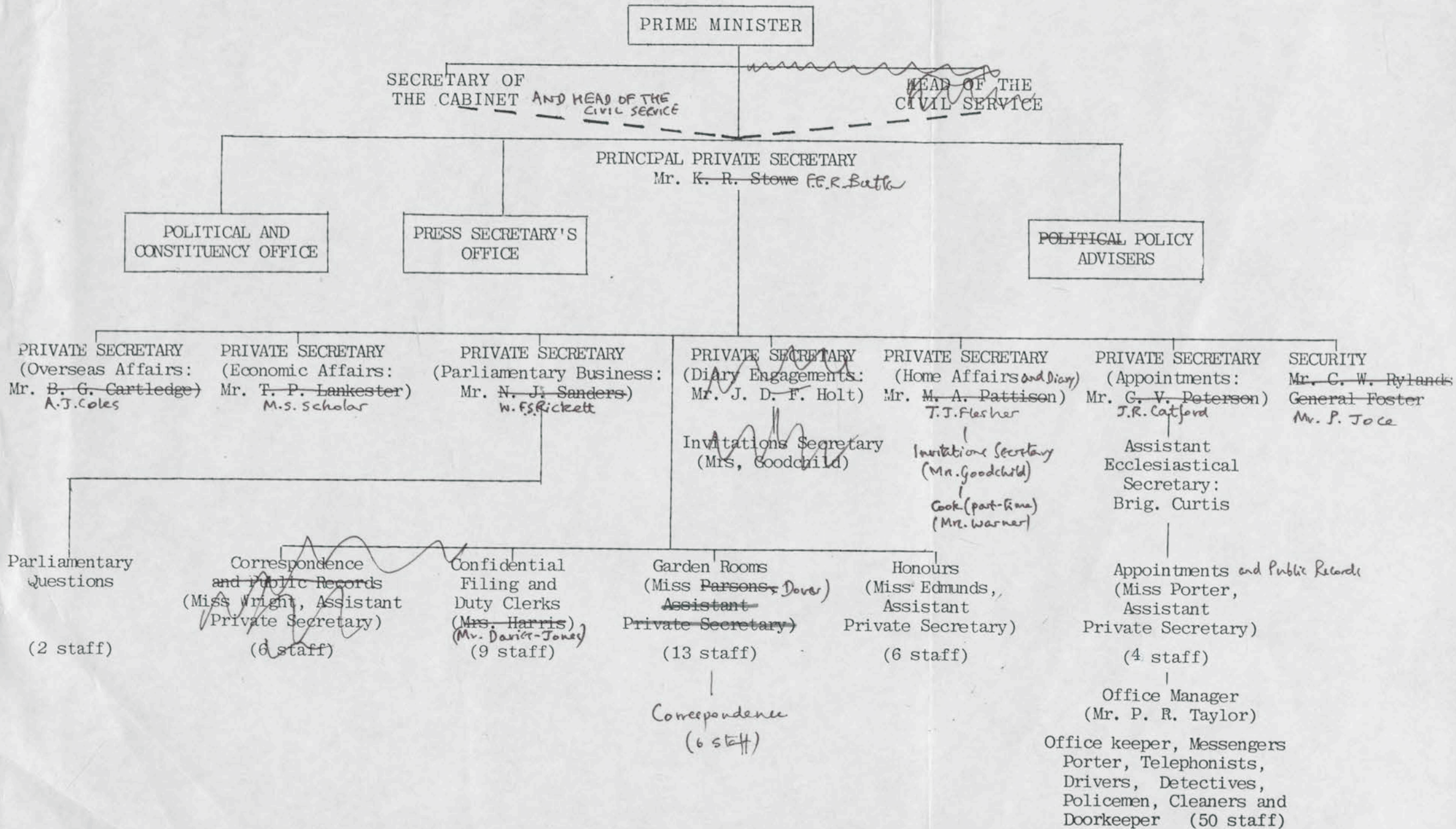
Briefs for A Returned Conservative Government

1. Summary of Urgent Economic Business *kt Hong*
2. Summary of Urgent OD Business
3. Machinery of Government Matters *lst King*

Note

1. Urgent European Community issues will be covered as part of the briefing for the European Council on 17-19 June.

PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE OFFICE



CONFIDENTIAL



J. C. AA

*PM
May 79.*

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Could you please let me know in due course what subjects you expect to be covering in briefs for either Mrs Thatcher or an incoming Prime Minister after the General Election.

F.R.B.

17 May 1983

AA

CONFIDENTIAL

Ref. A083/1612

MR BUTLER

Thank you for your minute of 6 June, and for the attached note on the Prime Minister's office.

2. The note itself seems admirable, and I have no comments on it.
3. I think something has gone wrong with the organisation chart at Annex C. It suggests that the Prime Minister's political and constituency office and her policy advisers (as well as you and Mr Ingham) report through me. I suggest that the lines from the political and constituency office to the policy advisers ought to go direct to the Prime Minister; and that there should be only a dotted line between you and Mr Ingham on the one hand and me on the other, and between me and the Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister then needs a further explanation of the relationship between the Prime Minister, the Secretary of the Cabinet and the Head of the Civil Service, and the Principal Private Secretary, we can supply it.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

8 June 1983

PM May 79
Briefing on assumption of office



HL
cc Mr Flecker.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

I attach a note on the Prime Minister's office which I have prepared against the contingency of the arrival of a new Prime Minister. If you have any comments on it, I should be grateful if you could let me know by close of play on Wednesday 8 June.

E. E. R. BUTLER

6 June 1983