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*Education PA*



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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Nick Sanders Esq  
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~~PRIME MINISTER~~

*A little more about teacher*

25 September 1979

*numbers - consistent  
with the figures we  
gave you earlier.*

*MS*

*Dear Nick*

I understand that when Peter Wilson wrote to you on 18 September with some information about teacher numbers, he promised to send you a further note on the Daily Telegraph article of 17 September.

--- I now enclose this note.

*Yours sincerely*

*P. J. Hunter*

P J HUNTER  
Private Secretary

LETTERS BY MAIL  
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POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

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W 1A 1AA

20 SEP 1979

1000 BOULEVARD  
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1 The Education Estimates of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting (CIPFA), published in July and reported in the Daily Telegraph of 17 September, report local education authorities' collective intention to employ 483,577 teachers in England and Wales in January 1980. This would represent an increase of 12,977 over the number of teachers recorded (on a rather different basis) as being employed in January 1979, and of 6,632 over CIPFA's own estimate for January 1979 of 476,945. This is partly a paper increase since CIPFA have included in their estimate, for the first time, the category 'teachers in education other than in schools', which accounts for an apparent year-on-year increase of some 2,000 teachers.

2 The CIPFA estimates were aggregated on the basis of local authorities' estimates made in February 1979. They therefore antedate the General Election, the new Government's statements about local authority manpower and the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget statement about local authority expenditure in 1979-80.

3 The Department expects the total number of teachers employed in England and Wales to fall in the current school year, both in the light of the Government statements mentioned above and also because the number of secondary school pupils is now beginning to fall. The projection of teacher numbers made by the Department and the local authorities in ESCE, for the purpose of forecasting local authority expenditure in 1979-80 and 1980-81, is some 467,000 in January 1980, a decrease of 3½ thousand from the January 1979 figure: this projection is however subject to considerable uncertainty. Firm information about the number of teachers actually employed in September, at the beginning of the school year, will be available in November.

4 The component parts of the two forecasts, and the methods of calculation, are so different that an attempt at a precise reconciliation of the figures would <sup>not</sup> be helpful. The Department's experience is that the CIPFA estimates, compiled as they are at the beginning of the financial year, tend to overstate somewhat the provision which authorities actually make.

Teachers Branch

Department of Education and Science

September 1979



# RECORD TOTAL OF TEACHERS

By Our Education  
Correspondent

**M**ORE teachers than ever before are being employed by local authorities, despite a steep drop in the pupil population and the closure of scores of schools.

Statistics disclosed today by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, which provides a guide to the way local authorities allocate their educational expenditure, show that 483,577 teachers will be employed in 1980. This is more than 6,600 up on the 1979 school year.

For the fourth year running, there has been a steep fall in primary school pupil numbers. Between last January and next, there will be 195,000 fewer such pupils.

Over the same period, there has been a drop of 11,000 secondary school pupils, though this is slightly offset by an increase in their numbers in English non-metropolitan counties.

In all, there will be 247 fewer primary schools next January compared with the figure for January, 1978.

## More nursery schools

There is good news for the advocates of nursery education. A marginal increase in the number of pupils at nursery schools has been noted—up from 147,000 to 152,000.

And there is also an improvement in teacher-pupil ratios—up from 23.9 pupils to one teacher in 1976 primary schools to 22.3 to one in 1980 and from 17 to one in secondary schools to 16.5 to one.

The cost of food contained in a school meal comes on average to 16.9p while the total average cost of the meal, counting salaries and overheads totals 54.9p.



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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Nick Sanders Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
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✓ MS  
to PEP with PM  
18 September 1979

Dear Nick

You told me yesterday that the Prime Minister wanted some information about educational expenditure and pupil teacher ratios, and later gave details to Richard Jameson. The information available is now attached: we do not yet know what detailed action local authorities will take in 1980-81 following the Government's decisions in July.

If you have any queries perhaps you would speak to Richard Jameson direct.

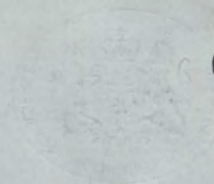
Yours sincerely

Peter

P A WILSON  
Private Secretary



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