

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Leeds
LS2 9JT
Telephone 31751

From the Vice-Chancellor
The Rt Hon
Lord Boyle of Handsworth MA LLD

29th January 1981

R.2/2

Confidential

Dear Prime Minister,

When I wrote to you shortly after Christmas, I said that I would gladly go along with what I understood to be your wish, namely that I should continue for a while as Chairman of the Top Salaries Review Body, with Lord Plowden filling the role of acting-Chairman in my enforced absence. However I went on to suggest that it would be desirable to announce a change of Chairman well in advance of the publication of the Review Body's 1981 Report.

I feel the time has now come when I should formally tender my resignation as Chairman, with effect - I suggest - from February 1st, and I am delighted to learn that Lord Plowden, whom I saw yesterday, has agreed to be my successor. This will I am sure be most welcome news, not only to myself, but to the Review Body as a whole. May I add that, if this would be in accordance with your own wishes, I should be happy to remain on the Review Body as an ordinary member. I could then continue to receive the papers, and Lord Plowden could discuss matters with me, as with other members of the Review Body, whenever this appeared helpful.

In sending you this letter, I realise that I have held the office of Chairman over a period of nearly nine years, under four Prime Ministers and three heads of the Civil Service. I have owed a great deal to their understanding, to the knowledge and experience and unfailing support of my colleagues, and - no less - to the consistent quality of the work carried out on the Review Body's behalf by the staff of the Office of Manpower Economics under its successive Directors.

I am glad to say that my own health is continuing to improve, and I am now back in the University, not only carrying a normal load for a Vice-Chancellor in terms of chairing Senate and its most important committees; I am also able to attend an increasing number of functions like public lectures and concerts, and to be seen on foot around the precinct. My physical mobility is now greater than I would have dared to hope two months ago. But I am certain for a considerable time ahead to need a residual degree of nursing care, which means that my visits to London must normally be confined to one a month; hence this letter of resignation which on all other grounds I send with great regret.

Yours very sincerely
Edmund Boyle

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 March 1981

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that we plan to make the announcement of your appointment as Chairman of the Top Salaries Review Body at 3.30 p.m. tomorrow, Thursday 5 March. The announcement will be in the terms which you saw earlier.

The Lord Plowden, KCB, KBE.

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Martin - to see

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Prime Minister

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VICE-CHANCELLOR'S LODGE
GROSVENOR ROAD
LEEDS LS6 2DZ

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MS

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1.3.81

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of February 23rd. As I indicated to you, I shall be very happy indeed to continue as a member of the Review Body under Edwin Plender's Chairmanship, and am ~~greatly~~ grateful for your formal act of appointment. I think my office here has also confirmed with Mr Saunders at No. 10 that the wording of the draft P.Q. and reply, is entirely acceptable from my point of view.

I am very grateful for the kind things you say about the work of the Review Body since 1971. Heaven knows - as I for one have always realised - we have presented successive Governments with problems! But I hope we have identified some inescapable issues with

reasonable clarity, and that we have done some work that will last.
For instance I think at our third attempt we got the structure of
ministerial pay in the Commons about right, whatever view be taken of
the amount, though I realise there are still unresolved problems of
how to pay ministers in the Lords. and I'm sure our new system
for the reimbursement of press' expenses, ^{which the Government accepted,} is more satisfactory than the old.

I should, in my last letter as chairman, like once again to pay
a warm tribute to the quality of the advice we have received, and
been able to rely on, from the Office of Manpower Economics. Believe me,
the 'Clegg error' last year over teachers' pay, however much to be deplored,
was utterly untypical of the work of the office as I have ^{experienced} ~~known~~ it
over ten years.

My health is still improving, and I'm confidently expecting on my
March visit to London to be able to attend the meeting of the Review
Body on the 19th.

Yours very sincerely
Edward Boyle

✓ C.O.
C.S.D.

BRIDGEWATER HOUSE
CLEVELAND ROW
ST. JAMES'S
LONDON
SW1A 1DG
01-839 9090

Prime Minister

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27th February 1981

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Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of February 24th which reached me today.

I write to confirm formally my acceptance of the appointment of Chairman of the Top Salaries Review Body. It will be difficult to follow such an outstanding Chairman as Lord Boyle. I am grateful for the confidence you place in me to do this.

Attached to your letter was a draft announcement of the appointment. So far as I am concerned I have no comments and am happy with it.

Yours sincerely
Leon Rowden

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

file

VB



cc: CSJ
CO Econ Pol

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 February 1981

Dear Lord Plowden,

I was happy to learn at our recent meeting of your willingness to serve as chairman of the Review Body and I am most grateful to you.

I am writing formally to confirm your appointment which will be, as we agreed, for an indefinite period.

We shall of course need to make a public announcement of your appointment and I think this might best be done in the form of a reply to a Parliamentary Question. I enclose a draft of the announcement in case you wish to comment on it.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Stobart

The Lord Plowden, K.C.B., K.B.E.

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DRAFT PQ TO THE PRIME MINISTER

To ask the Prime Minister if she will make a statement about the chairmanship of the Top Salaries Review Body.

DRAFT REPLY:

Lord Boyle has tendered me his resignation as chairman of the Top Salaries Review Body which I have accepted with great regret. [He is recovering from illness, and] with his other commitments he does not feel that he could at present fully discharge the duties of chairman. I am very pleased that he has nevertheless agreed to stay on as a member of the Review Body. I am deeply grateful to him for his distinguished contribution as chairman since the TSRB was set up in 1971.

I am glad to be able to announce that Lord Plowden, who already has great experience as a member of the TSRB, has agreed to take over the chairmanship from Lord Boyle.

CONFIDENTIAL



cc CSD

Econ AB

dsg

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

23 February 1981

Dear Edward

Thank you very much for your letter of 29 January.

It is with deep regret that I accept your resignation from the Chairmanship of the Top Salaries Review Body. Not only will the Review Body be losing a Chairman of great distinction and dedication, but the circumstances which have brought you to this decision are a great personal sorrow to me.

I was delighted to hear of the improvement in your health, and very much hope that it will be sustained, so that you can continue to carry out your duties at Leeds. I fully understand nevertheless that you would not want the additional burden of regular journeys to London.

As you say, Edwin Plowden's willingness to undertake the Chairmanship is good news. I know that he would appreciate your continuing advice and guidance on the Review Body, as would I, and I am happy to appoint you formally as a member.

/ You have

FH

You have made an invaluable contribution to our understanding of a complex and always sensitive subject. The Review Body has, since its inception under your Chairmanship in 1971, proved itself a thorough and sure guide for successive Governments in the difficult field of top salaries. It has built up a unique knowledge of the separate groups. This was in no small part your achievement. On behalf of the Government, I should like to express my deep gratitude for all the work which you have done.

I plan to announce your resignation and succession by Edwin Plowden by means of a reply to a Parliamentary Question. I enclose a copy of the draft announcement in case you wish to comment on it.

Yours sincerely

MT

The Rt. Hon. Lord Boyle of Handsworth.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Thank you very much for your letter of 29 January.

It is with deep regret that I accept
~~I have to accept~~ your resignation from the Chairmanship
of the Top Salaries Review Body ~~with deep regret,~~ *not only*
~~because~~ the Review Body will be losing a Chairman of great
distinction and dedication, but ~~also because~~ of the circum-
stances which have brought you to this decision. *and a great*
personal sorrow to me.

I was delighted to hear of the improvement in your health, and very much hope that it will be sustained, so that you can continue to carry out your duties at Leeds. I fully understand nevertheless that you would not want the additional burden of regular journeys to London.

As you say, Edwin Plowden's willingness to undertake the Chairmanship is good news. I know that he would appreciate your continuing advice and guidance on the Review Body, as would I, and I am happy to appoint you formally as a member.

/ In accepting

You have made an

~~In accepting your resignation as Chairman, I am all too conscious of the invaluable contribution you have made to our understanding of a complex and always sensitive subject. The Review Body has, since its inception under your Chairmanship in 1971, proved itself a thorough and sure guide for successive Governments in the difficult field of top salaries. It has built up a unique knowledge of the separate groups. This was in no small part your achievement. On behalf of the Government, I should like to express my deep gratitude for all the work which you have done.~~

I plan to announce your resignation and succession by Edwin Plowden by means of a reply to a Parliamentary Question. I enclose a copy of the draft announcement in case you wish to comment on it.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Boyle of Handsworth



GR

10 DOWNING STREET

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PRIME MINISTER

I attach draft
letters for you to send
to Lord Boyle and
Lord Plowden, accepting
the former's resignation
as Chairman and appointing
the latter to the Chairmanship.

— song clerk

P.P.

T. LANIKESTER

19 February 1981

CONFIDENTIAL



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Bl*

CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Telephone 01 273 5400

*Sir Ian Bancroft G.C.B.
Head of the Home Civil Service*

Tim Lankester Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

17 February 1981

Dear Tim,

TSRB CHAIRMANSHIP

... As requested in your minute of 3 February
... to Mr Wright, I attach draft letters to
... Lord Boyle and to Lord Plowden. I also
... attach a draft PQ which we suggest might
... be used to announce the change of
... chairmanship.

*Yours,
Jeremy*

JEREMY COLMAN
Private Secretary

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DRAFT PQ TO THE PRIME MINISTER

To ask the Prime Minister if she will make a statement about the chairmanship of the Top Salaries Review Body.

DRAFT REPLY:

Lord Boyle has tendered me his resignation as chairman of the Top Salaries Review Body which I have accepted with great regret. [He is recovering from illness, and] with his other commitments he does not feel that he could at present fully discharge the duties of chairman. I am very pleased that he has nevertheless agreed to stay on as a member of the Review Body. I am deeply grateful to him for his distinguished contribution as chairman since the TSRB was set up in 1971.

I am glad to be able to announce that Lord Plowden, who already has great experience as a member of the TSRB, has agreed to take over the chairmanship from Lord Boyle.

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(Handwritten initials)

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO:

The Rt Hon Lord Boyle of Handsworth Bt MA LLD PC
The University of Leeds
LEEDS LS2 9JT

Very much
Thank you for your letter of 29 January, ~~tendering your resignation as the chairman of the TSRB.~~

→ I accept it with deep regret, not only because the TSRB will be losing a chairman of notable ability, but also because of the circumstances which have brought you to this decision.

I was delighted to hear of the improvement in your health, and very much hope that it will be sustained, so that you can continue to carry out your duties at Leeds. I fully understand nevertheless that you would not want the additional burden of regular journeys to London.

Edwin
As you say, Lord Plowden's willingness to undertake the chairmanship is good news. I know that he would appreciate your continuing advice and guidance on the Review Body, as would I, and I am happy to appoint you formally as a member.

→ In accepting your suggestion, *all too* ~~I am very~~ conscious of the invaluable contribution you have made, and will continue to make, to our understanding of a complex, and always sensitive, subject. The TSRB has, since its inception under your chairmanship in 1971, proved itself a thorough and sure guide for successive governments in the difficult field of top salaries. It has built up a unique knowledge of the separate groups. This was in no small part your achievement. ~~I should like to thank you officially and personally for your distinguished work.~~

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I plan to announce your resignation and succession by ^{Edwin} Lord Plowden
... by means of a reply to a Parliamentary Question. I enclose a
copy of the draft announcement in case you wish to comment on it.

~~Once again my gratitude, and my warmest good wishes to you.~~

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DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO:

The Rt Hon The Lord Plowden of Plowden KCB KBE

I was happy to learn at our recent meeting of your willingness to serve as chairman of the TSRB, and I am most grateful to you. *MS*

I am writing formally to confirm your appointment which will be, as we agreed, for an indefinite period.

We shall of course need to make a public announcement of your appointment and I think this might best be done in the form of a reply to a Parliamentary Question. I enclose a draft of the announcement in case you wish to comment on it.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR. WRIGHT
CABINET OFFICE

Lord Boyle has now written to the Prime Minister as foreshadowed in Sir Robert's minute of 28 January. I enclose a copy of his letter. I should be grateful if you or Jeremy Colman could now let me have a draft letter for the Prime Minister to send to Lord Boyle, and one also to Lord Plowden inviting him to take over the Chairmanship.

Can I leave it to you to work out with Jeremy Colman who is to provide these drafts: for the latter's benefit I should point out that the Prime Minister did not write as suggested in his letter to me of 27 January because by the time I received it, we were anticipating a formal letter of resignation from Lord Boyle.

I am sending a copy of this minute and enclosure to Jeremy Colman (Civil Service Department).

TPL

3 February 1981

MRB

cc C&D

Econ 151
June 80

DF 17/2/81

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HS

3 February 1981

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 29 January. This is receiving attention and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

T.P. LANKESTER

The Rt. Hon. Lord Boyle of Handsworth

Man (Logie)

I have removed :-

CSD of 10/9 to Clive
(copy - I already had original).

CSD of 17/9 to Clive

Sir Ian B. of 16/9 to Clive
(copy - I have original)

Clive to Sir Ian of 18/9.
(copy - I had original)

I have left on
your file the papers about

The resignation of Lord Boyle
as Chairman & the
appointment of Lord Plowden
to succeed him.

I had already
made a note on my file
that these papers are
with you and, as they
cover the future
of the Review Body & other
policy considerations, you
should have them anyway.
I would prefer not to
have a duplicate set. I
know where they are if
they are wanted. Jan.

12/11.