

Attendance at Cabinet and Cabinet Committees: Invitees and Absences.

CABINET

PART 2.

Part 1: May 1979

Part 2: December 1980

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
4.12.80		1.6.81		16.2.82		24.9.82	
8.12.80		23.6.81		17.2.82		27.9.82	
11.12.80		25.6.81		19.2.82		1.10.82.	
17.12.80		29.6.81		26.2.82		4.10.82	
6.1.81		3.7.81		3.3.82		11.10.82	
13.1.81		27.7.81		4.2.82		15.10.82	
26.1.81		9.8.81		23.3.82		19.10.82	
18.2.81		8.9.81		31.3.82		25.10.82	
18.3.81		18.9.81		23.4.82		29.10.82	
1.5.81		19.10.81		3.5.82		15.11.82	
14.5.81		29.10.81		7.5.82		26.11.82	
14.5.81		3.11.81		12.5.82		29.11.82	
22.5.81		6.11.81		19.5.82		1.12.82	
27.5.81		9.11.81		20.5.82		3.12.82	
		27.11.81		25.5.82		6.12.82	
		14.12.81		4.6.82		7.12.82	
		17.12.81		9.6.82		10.12.82	
		8.1.82		11.6.82		13.12.82	
		29.1.82		14.6.82		14.12.82	
		5.2.82		22.6.82		15.12.82	
		8.2.82		25.6.82		- Pt Ends	
				9.7.82		X	
				16.7.82			
				23.7.82			
				28.82			
				6.9.82			
				18.9.82			

PREM 19/667

● PART 2 ends:-

ASC to PM 16/12/82

PART 3 begins:-

C. Wilkinson to FERB (A083/0137)
14/1/83

Cabinet



Told him

Mus 14/12

10 DOWNING STREET

(1)

Prime Minister

May Ferdie Mount sit in on

'E' Committee on Trade

Cabinet on 'contracting out'

Mus 13/12

Y
me

Cabinet ①



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Ministry

John Sparrow would like

to attend OD tomorrow

(Fullhead White Paper).

But it is Refuse.

Contact? Yes no

A. S. C. $\frac{6}{12}$.

I have told Cabinet

Office.

no $\frac{7}{12}$.

CONFIDENTIAL

RW



FILE

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MISS L WILKINSON
CABINET OFFICE

ATTENDANCE AT OD(FAF)

Thank you for your minute of 22 October.
The Prime Minister agrees that Mr Marten should
attend OD(FAF) when the Shackleton Report is
on the agenda.

A. H. COLES

25 October, 1982

R

010

Ref: A09831



CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

May Mr. Marten attend OD(FAF)
(as well as Mr. Onslow) when the
Shackleton report is being discussed:

MR. COLES

Yes Mr A.J.C. 22/10

Attendance at OD(FAF)

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has said that he would find it most helpful if Mr. Marten could be invited to attend OD(FAF) for future discussions when the Shackleton Report is on the agenda. This will enable him to advise on all the aid implications and the issues for which he has direct responsibility. Mr. Pym recognises that it would be unusual to have three Departmental Ministers attending a Sub-committee but he hopes that an exception can be made in the unique circumstances of the Falkland Islands, where two Ministers of State will continue to have important complementary responsibilities in a most sensitive area.

2. I should be grateful for your instructions.

Lindsay Wilkinson

LINDSAY WILKINSON

22nd October 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

E.R.

Cabinet

Prime Minister

①

MR. SCHOLAR

Agree?

MUS 27/9

CABINET, 30 SEPTEMBER

The discussion in Cabinet on 30 September about the Chief Secretary's paper on the pay factors for the coming pay round will be central to our concerns about pay and the handling of industrial disputes. With Ferdie Mount's agreement, I should like, if the Prime Minister is content, to attend Cabinet for that part of the discussion.

Yes
no.

27 September 1982

Cabinet

Prime Minister ^①

Agree Mr Green's
attendance at E(NI)?

Agree to seeing him
for, say, 1/2 hour?

MUS 7/9

7 September 1982

Qa 06056

To: PRIME MINISTER

From: JOHN SPARROW

Head of NI Review Staff - Attendance at E(NI)

1. Since you gave the CPRS the job of a Nationalised Industry Review Staff to support the Ministerial Committee (E(NI)), we have been seeking to recruit a senior industrialist to head this staff. As I expect you know, we have been fortunate in recruiting Mr David Green, a division manager from ICI with very relevant private-sector experience. He joined us a few weeks ago.

2. I should like your agreement that he should attend meetings of E(NI). This will be the best way for him to make direct contact with Ministers, so that he is able to lead the staff and deal authoritatively with sponsor departments and industries. We have recruited him as a Deputy Secretary, and I am confident that with Ministers' support he can play a key role. It may not always be appropriate for both him and me to attend, but given our 'Secretariat' role I hope you will agree that we may both do so on occasion.

3. I should also like to find some opportunity to introduce him to you when you have a moment to spare.

4. I am sending a copy of this minute to Sir Robert Armstrong.

B.

C.F. / Discussed →

with Mr

Sparrow.

PA

MUS 9/9

It is very unusual. I can only
remember one previous meeting which was
attended by a second CPRS member and
that was the first meeting of the Gov. of change
Pipeline. As a unique exception - we will try
it once or twice, not



Cabinet.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

H AND MISC 79

Thank you for your minute A08759 of 21 June 1982 about Mr. Mount's attendance at H and MISC 79.

This is just to confirm that I have now told Mr. Mount that the way is clear for him to attend meetings of these two Committees. He has agreed that his presence should be on the same basis as that of Mr. Walters at meetings of E: he will attend as an observer; he will not be shown in the published minutes as being present or in attendance; and he will not intervene in the discussion unless directly invited to do so by the Chairman.

RMW:

25 June 1982

288

22 June 1982

MR WHITMORE o/r

H AND MISC 79

Thank you for your minute of today's date about my attendance at H and MISC 79.

I note that the Prime Minister is content that I should attend these committees.

I agree with your suggestion that I should attend on the same basis as Mr Walters at E, as an observer, and should not intervene in the discussion unless directly invited to do so by the Chairman.

FERDINAND MOUNT FM

File AH

MR MOUNT

Thank you for your minute of 16 June 1982 about your attendance at H and MISC 79.

I have now been able to consult the Prime Minister in the light of advice from Sir Robert Armstrong, and she is content for you to attend these committees.

I suggest that your presence should be on the same basis as that of Mr Walters at meetings of E: he is in attendance as an observer, is not shown in the published minutes as being present or in attendance and does not intervene in the discussion unless directly invited to do so by the Chairman.

JW.

22 June 1982

AH



File AH

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A08751 of 18 June 1982 about Mr Mount's attendance at H and MISC 79.

Notwithstanding the objections, she would like Mr Mount to be present at meetings of these two committees. Do you wish to submit any further advice, before I speak to Mr Mount to let him know that the way is clear for him to attend these committees?

JW.

21 June 1982

Prime Minister -

Mr Mount would like to attend the Ministerial Committee which the Home Secretary chairs - H and MISC 79. I understand Mr Whitaker has no objection. But this would be a new departure, and so I suggest Sir Robert Armstrong's views. He sets them out below.

Ref. A08751

MR. WHITMORE

Are you content for Mr Mount to attend these committees, despite the problems?

We spoke about Mr. Mount's attendance at MISC 79 and H.

Yes Mr. Whit. 18th

2. As I said in the minute I sent to you on 12th May, it would be a new proposition that one of the Prime Minister's advisers should attend a meeting of a Cabinet Ministerial Committee which she does not herself chair, especially if the intention is to take an active part in the discussion.

3. The adviser concerned would be in an anomalous and possibly delicate position vis-a-vis Ministers on the Committee concerned. Mr. Mount says that he could make it clear that he would not be speaking on behalf of the Prime Minister but would be trying to elucidate the issues in order to inform her on them. I am not sure about that: even if he disclaimed the Prime Minister's authority, Ministers would be bound to read her views into what he said; and might feel that they would prefer themselves to inform her in their own way and time on the issues and on their views about them.

4. Attendance at Ministerial Committees is not the only way in which the Policy Unit can become aware of Ministerial thinking and of the arguments being put. They can and presumably do see inter-Ministerial correspondence copied to the Prime Minister and the papers and minutes of Ministerial Cabinet Committees; and they are able (as Departmental officials are not) to go and talk privately to the Prime Minister's Departmental colleagues.

5. This is not so much a matter of protocol as of protecting the Prime Minister's relationships with her colleagues. It is my duty to draw her attention to the potential risks and embarrassments; it is of course for her to decide whether the advantages outweigh those risks.

6. This of course raises in miniature issues which would arise more acutely in relation to a Prime Minister's Department. The Prime Minister has once or twice reverted to that recently. Perhaps we ought now to have the extended discussion of that subject which we did not have when it was raised and was the subject of a minute I sent you last autumn.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

18th June, 1982

16 June 1982

MR WHITMORE

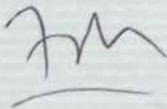
MISC 79 AND H

We spoke.

I realise that my attendance at these committees would be unusual and raises something of a precedent. But I think that the issue is worth pursuing for the following reasons:

- (a) The Home Secretary, as Chairman of both Committees, invited me to attend.
- (b) The subjects to be covered, particularly in MISC 79, are of crucial importance for the structure of the government.
- (c) It is very much the function of the Policy Unit to be aware of Ministerial thinking and of the detailed arguments being put at an early stage in the formulation of policy.
- (c) If asked to speak, I think I am reasonably capable of making it clear that I would not be speaking on behalf of the Prime Minister, but would be trying to elucidate the issues in order to inform her on them. And if remaining silent, I think my attendance would be valuable nonetheless.

As you said, the issue will need to be discussed with Sir Robert Armstrong and ultimately with the Prime Minister.



FERDINAND MOUNT



Ref. A08662

MR. WHITMORE

We had a word on 11th June about Mr. Mount's request that he should attend meetings of the Ministerial Committee on Home Affairs (H). So far as we know, there is no reason to suppose that he is intending to take part in discussions; the idea apparently is that he should get the feel of the Committee. Nonetheless I think that, though I understand that the Home Secretary has agreed to the proposal, it presents many of the difficulties which led us to suggest that it might be preferable for Professor Walters not to attend a meeting of E(DL).

2. I should be grateful if you would consider whether this would be a case in which you might have a similar word with Mr. Mount.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

14th June, 1982



1.
MCS already out
a note to
PM about
this
sky
15/1/82
~~Prime Minister.~~
Agree?
HU
14u'

Ref. A08672

MR WHITMORE

Attendance at Meeting of Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy:
Tuesday 15 June

On the agenda for the meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy tomorrow, Tuesday 15 June, is the Youth Training Scheme. This is a matter in which the Central Policy Review Staff has long been closely involved. Mr Sparrow recently submitted a minute about it to No 10.

2. Mr Sparrow is a permanent invitee to E Committee, and would normally attend for this item. However, he is on leave this week and I think that it would be advantageous if Mr Bailey, the Deputy Head of the CPRS, could attend in Mr Sparrow's place.

3. I should be grateful if you would let me know whether the Prime Minister is content with this.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

14 June 1982

CONFIDENTIAL



2cc AH

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Thank you for your minute A08398 of 12 May 1982 about Mr Walters's request to attend the meeting of E(DL) when the Financial Secretary's paper on methods of privatisation is discussed.

I did not want to trouble the Prime Minister with this matter and so I had a word with Mr Walters himself to point out to him the difficulties which his request posed. He understood immediately the objections to his attendance and withdrew his request to be at the meeting.

He does not want to take up your suggestion that we might circulate to E(DL) a note setting out his views.

KW.

19 May 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

AH

Ref. A08398

MR WHITMORE

I understand that Professor Walters has asked if he might be invited to the Ministerial Sub-Committee on the Disposal of Public Sector Assets (E(DL)) when the Financial Secretary's paper on methods of privatisation (E(DL)(82)5) is discussed.

2. There are of course plenty of precedents for Ministerial advisers attending meetings of Official Committees. Mr Young, as the adviser to the Secretary of State for Industry, used to accompany his Secretary of State to meetings of E(DL). But I know of no precedent for Ministerial advisers attending meetings of Ministerial Cabinet Committees in their own right, otherwise than in attendance upon their Ministers. Considerable latitude has developed over the attendance of the Prime Minister's advisers at Cabinet Committees which the Prime Minister herself chairs, as Professor Walters himself attends meetings of E, although at such formal meetings (as opposed to informal meetings) the convention is that they are unseen and unheard, and their presence is unrecorded. There are also special rules for the Head and Deputy Head of the Central Policy Review Staff who advise Ministers collectively and are regular invitees on a formal basis to certain Cabinet Committees, some chaired by the Prime Minister and some chaired by other Ministers. It is however a different and new proposition that one of the Prime Minister's advisers should attend a meeting of a Cabinet Ministerial Committee which she does not herself chair, especially if the intention is to take an active part in the discussion. It would be an innovation which might not be welcomed by all the Prime Minister's colleagues.

3. In order to avoid that kind of problem, it should be possible to find other ways to enable Professor Walters to contribute to the debate on methods of privatisation. A letter could go round from No 10 drawing the attention of Ministers



attending E(DL) to a note setting out Professor Walters's views, and the letter could be referred to as a relevant document on the E(DL) agenda. Moreover if, as seems likely, officials are instructed to undertake further work following the discussion in E(DL), or there are subsequent informal meetings involving Ministers and officials, there would be no difficulty in Professor Walters taking part in such meetings, by arrangement with the Chancellor or whoever had responsibility for convening such discussions.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

12th May 1982

Group/Class..... PREM 19
Piece..... 667

Letter from Whitmore to
Craig dated 19 October 1981

Paper extracted and
temporarily retained
under Section 3(4)
pending completion of
review.
(date)..... 7 June 2012
(Signed)..... Wayland.

Group/Class..... PREM 19.....

Piece..... 667.....

Minute from Welsh Secretary
to Prime Minister dated
? October 1981

Paper extracted and
temporarily retained
under Section 3(4)
pending completion of
review.

(date)..... 7 June 2012.....

(Signed)..... AWayland.....

CONFIDENTIAL

file

SR

MR WRIGHT
CABINET OFFICE

Attendance at OD

The Prime Minister has seen Mr. Wade-Gery's minute to me of 3 September and has agreed that the Acting CDS may attend tomorrow's meeting of OD on Heavy Torpedoes.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

7 September 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

5

Ref: B06269



Prime Minister

Agree that Admiral Leach (Acting CDS) should attend the OD discussion on heavy torpedoes?

~~MR ALEXANDER~~

c Mr Hilton

Yes.

Phm

Attendance at OD

For the OD meeting on Heavy Torpedoes on 8th September, the Defence Secretary would like to be accompanied, in the CDS's absence, by the Acting CDS who is (rather conveniently for a naval item) the Chief of the Naval Staff. This seems a reasonable request, to which you will wish to seek the Prime Minister's agreement. When OD considered lightweight torpedoes in July and September 1979 the then CDS and the then Chief of Defence Procurement were present on the first occasion, and all four Chiefs of Staff (but not the Chief of Defence Procurement) on the second occasion.

2. In general there tends to be tension between the wish of the Chiefs of Staff to attend OD on all possible occasions and the natural desire of Ministers to conduct what are essentially political discussions on their own. It is a useful compromise between these positions to invite the CDS (or Acting CDS) on his own when there are reasonable grounds for doing so.

R L Wade-Gery

3rd September 1981

R L WADE-GERY

I should like to have a word with S. of S. before this discussion - and possibly with Chief Secretary there as well.

Group/Class..... PREM 19
Piece..... 667

Minute from Home Secretary
to Prime Minister dated
25 June 1981

Paper extracted and
temporarily retained
under Section 3(4)
pending completion of
review.
(date)..... 7 June 2012
(Signed)..... AJ Dayland

MR. WALTERS

OK Cabinet
Maw

ATTENDANCE AT CABINET COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

I told you last night that I would consult the Prime Minister about your attendance at meetings of Ministerial Committees. I have now done this, and she has agreed that you may attend, as of right, meetings of E and Ex. I imagine that, in practice, you will want to be present only at those meetings which are taking subjects of particular interest to you. You should be getting copies of the agenda for both these Committees, and you will be able to decide from these which occasions you wish to be present for.

Maw.

13 January 1981

PERSONAL

PRIME MINISTER

MR. WALTERS: ATTENDANCE AT CABINET COMMITTEE MEETINGS

You have already decided what access Mr. Walters should be given to official papers, including those of Ministerial Committees. I should now like to seek your views on his attendance at Cabinet Committee meetings.

I think that the only meetings of Ministerial Committees which Mr. Walters will need to attend, from time to time, are those of E and, possibly, EX. Mr. Hoskyns attends E when matters in which he has a particular interest are being taken. I suggest that Mr. Walters is given the right to be present at all meetings of E and EX, even though in practice he will attend only from time to time. Are you content with this arrangement?

Yes
no.

RW.

12 January 1981

PERSONAL

Group/Class..... PREM 19
Piece 667

Manuscript note from Chancellor
of Duchy to Prime Minister
dated 17 December 1980

Paper extracted and
temporarily retained
under Section 3(4)
pending completion of
review.
(date)..... 7 June 2012
(Signed) AWayland

CONFIDENTIAL



Cabinet

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Thank you for your minute A03753 of 5 December 1980 about the attendance of the Secretary of the Chiefs of Staff Committee at meetings of OD when the Chief of Defence Staff is there on his own.

I agree that there is no need to trouble the Prime Minister again about this matter, but I am sure she would agree that you should proceed as you now propose to do in the light of your further discussion with Sir Frank Cooper.

JWS.

8 December 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



Ref. A03753

MR. WHITMORE

*IMJ
8/11*

pt 1

pt 1 On 28th November I sent you a minute (Ref. A03594) about the attendance of the Secretary of the Chiefs of Staff Committee as an additional member of the Secretariat of OD, when the Chief of the Defence Staff comes on his own. Your reply of 2nd December said that the Prime Minister was ready, though very reluctantly, to agree to the CDS's request.

2. Since then I have had a further word with Sir Frank Cooper. He told me that the CDS's request was made without any consultation within the Ministry of Defence, was in his view unwise, and was unlikely to be pressed, if we stuck to the position described in paragraph 4 of my previous minute.

3. I think that this information changes the picture, and I should now prefer to stick to my guns and (ever so gently) turn down the CDS's latest request. The matter will then rest on the basis of paragraph 4 of my earlier minute.

4. You may think that it is not necessary to trouble the Prime Minister with this; but I thought that you should know why I was now intending not to take advantage of the authority which she had given.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

5th December, 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

PART 1 **ends:-**

CAW to RTA 2.12.80

PART 2 **begins:-**

Armstrong to Whitmore, 5/12/80

~~Ld Chancellor's office~~ to CAW 3.12.80

