

**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR PRESS

14 JUNE 1976

PUBLIC SERVICE AND STATUTORY AUTHORITY STAFF CEILINGS

A review has been made of staff ceilings for the Public Service and statutory authorities for 1976/77. In line with the Government's announced economic policies, the review took account of decisions taken by the Government to bring about economies in programs and activities, and our continuing determination to ensure that departments and authorities operate as efficiently as possible.

Following the review, I have approved staff ceilings for 30 June 1977 which, overall, will have the effect of reducing the ceilings in Commonwealth departments, and in those authorities for which staff ceilings are set, from 326,400 to 322,357, an overall reduction of 1.2%. Staff ceilings under the Public Service Act will be reduced by 1.6% and ceilings for other statutory authorities by 0.9%.

I am reminding all Ministers of the importance of achieving the revised ceilings as part of the Government's intention to contain overall Commonwealth expenditure.

I have also directed that staff ceilings be kept under continuing review during 1976/77, and that I be kept informed of progress towards achieving the ceilings set, any difficulties which might be encountered by individual departments or authorities in reaching their ceilings, and potential areas where further reductions might be made.

The ceilings now approved for 30 June 1977 will be subject to further review and possible adjustment in the light of the Government's Budget decisions, and decisions yet to be taken on the reports of the Administrative Review Committee and other relevant enquiries.