



Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

Via email

17 May 2022

Dear Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster,

### **Proposed cuts to public services**

We are writing demanding an urgent meeting against the backdrop of the Government's announcement that it intends to reduce civil service numbers by 91,000 over the coming years.

The damage of the announcement was compounded by how it was clearly leaked to the press and the media in advance, with the first time staff and civil service employers finding out the Government's intentions being when they saw the front page of the Daily Mail or turned on the radio on Friday morning.

This approach to employment matters is both crass and insensitive and does nothing to recognise the fundamental contribution made by staff over the past number of years, where there has not been a government in peacetime as reliant on the civil service to defend, protect, support and enhance the lives of citizens and deliver the government's agenda.

The announcement of 91,000 job losses was met with horror not only by members, but also by their employers, who were shocked by the announcement.

91,000 is a figure without foundation. The legislative landscape and the Government's priorities have changed fundamentally since 2016, with the repatriation of regulatory powers from Europe, the multiple other challenges of Brexit, a focus on dealing with climate change and biodiversity, the need to ensure energy and food security, supporting our armed forces as well as supporting communities up and down the country as part of the Government's "levelling up" and "build back better" agenda.

It is the job of the civil service to serve ministers. The 91,000 figure appears to be a figure plucked from the air with no cognisance of what the civil service is tasked to deliver.

New Prospect House  
8 Leake Street  
London  
SE1 7NN

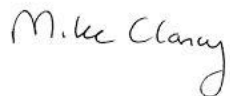
0300 600 1878  
info@prospect.org.uk

prospect.org.uk

Latest revision of this document: <https://library.prospect.org.uk/id/2022/00496>  
This revision: <https://library.prospect.org.uk/id/2022/00496/2022-05-18>

Against the backdrop of the above, we need an urgent meeting and the attacks on civil servants must stop.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mike Clancy in cursive script.

Mike Clancy  
General Secretary  
Prospect union

Handwritten signature of Dave Penman in cursive script.

Dave Penman  
General Secretary  
FDA