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Jan Jand

SALARY AND PENSIONS DISCLOSURE

We spoke last week about Mr Eilledge's letter to me of 29 March.

I explained that I was sympathetic to the Board's belief that central government accounts should disclose details of the remuneration packages of senior civil servants. In practice, we are quite close to the achieving that. A scrutiny of the Departmental Resource Accounts shows that almost all the main Departments of State are in full compliance with salary and pension disclosures. Altogether there are only 29 people in the group concerned who have withheld their consent, almost all of them in smaller organisations like the Postal Services Commission. I intend to write to the heads of the organisations concerned to understand the position better and to see whether we can persuade the individuals to change their minds.

Whatever the outcome of this, the number will in any case, reduce over time because, as you know, all letters of appointment to a management board post should make it a condition that the individual agrees to disclose the information required by the Resource Accounting Manual.

Nonetheless, I agree that ideally we should be in a position where we can automatically disclose these details without the individuals' consent not only in relation to Departments and Executive Agencies but also in relation to Department sponsored NDPBs. But as I explained on the phone, the route to the ideal is complicated. Legislation to put the position beyond doubt would be the best way forward but as you know, the pressure on legislative time is always intense especially immediately after an election. Although we will try for this, I would be misleading you if I implied that I thought we were likely to



succeed. So we are currently looking again with our lawyers to explore alternative ways of achieving automatic disclosure without changing the law

I will write to you again when I have pursued these various avenues to give you an update.

