

Bruce - Your copy. Smith

November 10, 1960

The Vice-Chancellor,
UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY.

Dear Dr. Llewellyn:

Re: HIGH SPEED COMPUTER

Now that the contract has been signed with I.B.M. for the supply of a 1620 computer, we should like to thank you for what you have done and congratulate you on the success of what may fairly be called a long and arduous campaign. We are sure that many of the academic staff would want to join us in this, and, like us, would wish the same thanks and congratulations to be extended to the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor.

There now remain two matters which seem to require early decisions. They are (1) the permanent location of the machine and staff associated with it; and

(2) the nature of the permanent staff to be appointed and their relation to existing university departments.

1. SPACE REQUIREMENTS AND LOCATION

Using as a guide, figures supplied by I.B.M. we estimate the floor area required for the machine and ancillary equipment to be 650 sq.ft., distributed over two rooms, allowing for the additions to the machine which might reasonably be expected during the next five years. Adjacent to this area should be provision for a senior staff office and working area for a secretary and research assistants making a total floor area of approximately 1000 sq.ft.

The main requirement of the site of the computer is that it should be readily accessible from all University departments, particularly mathematics, the physical sciences and engineering. Our suggestion is that it should be housed in the new mathematics and psychology building where the required space could be created by extending the whole building 10 ft.

2. STAFFING

It is our firm belief that in view of the specialist nature of his duties and his wide responsibilities that the permanent staff member should be not less than a senior lecturer who should have at least part time

secretarial assistance by the time the machine is installed. The appointee should ideally commence his duties early in 1961. Later in the year would be satisfactory only for an experienced person.

The vital question arises as to whom the senior lecturer in charge of computing should be directly responsible. His position in the University will be unique. Our suggestion is that overall control of the computing unit be in the hands of a committee appointed by the Professorial Board, which would well be set up very soon in order to deal with the day-to-day decisions arising out of the questions outlined in this letter.

Yours sincerely,



F. M. HENDERSON

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B. R. PENFOLD

Senior Lecturer in Chemistry