



VLB

Sub Head

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

9 March 1981

Dear Brian,

Efficiency in Central Government: The Scrutiny Programme 1981

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 19 February. She understands the reason why it was delayed and agrees with your Secretary of State's proposals for scrutinies of the Movement of Service Personnel, Defence Telecommunications and Dissemination of Information.

The Prime Minister has asked Sir Derek Rayner to take a particular interest on her behalf in the Movement scrutiny, in addition to those of Defence Sales and financial management.

The Prime Minister welcomes the possibility that further scrutinies will be proposed later in the year when your Secretary of State has been able to extend his knowledge of the department. She herself thinks that further scrutinies should be undertaken, some with a focus on manpower-intensive areas, and that these would be helpful to both the Secretary of State and wider policies on the size and cost of Government. They could, if appropriate, build on existing work within the Ministry.

The Prime Minister has asked Sir Derek Rayner to discuss these matters with your Secretary of State before Easter. She would also be grateful if the Lord President could be associated with Mr. Nott's thinking at some stage.

I am copying this to John Wiggins (HM Treasury), Edward Chaplin and Jeremy Colman (CSD), David Wright (Cabinet Office), Gerry Spence (CPRS) and Clive Priestley (Sir Derek Rayner's Office).

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Williams

B. M. Norbury, Esq.,  
Ministry of Defence.

ds