

Mr. Ryder

PRIME MINISTER

You asked for an aide memoire of the Cabinet Committees you have now appointed with their terms of reference and membership. They are as follows:

Queen's Speech and Future Legislation Committee (QL)

Home Secretary (Chairman)
Lord Chancellor
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Lord President
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Attorney General
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury

Defence and Oversea Policy Committee (OPD)

"To keep under review the Government's defence and overseas policy."

Prime Minister (Chairman)
Home Secretary (if he wishes)
Lord Chancellor
Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary
Chancellor of the Exchequer (if he wishes, but in any case, a Treasury representative)
Secretary of State for Defence
Lord President
Lord Privy Seal
Secretary of State for Trade

Sub-Committee of OPD on European Questions (OPD(EQ))

Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary (Chairman)
Chancellor of the Exchequer (Chief Secretary in practice)
Lord President
Lord Privy Seal
Secretary of State for Trade
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Attorney General

Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy (ES)

"To keep under review the broad development of the Government's economic strategy, both internal and external."

Prime Minister (Chairman)
Home Secretary
Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Secretary of State for Industry
Lord President
Secretary of State for Employment
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Secretary of State for Trade
Secretary of State for Energy
Chief Secretary, Treasury

/Sub-Committee

Sub-Committee on Economic Affairs (ES(EA))

Secretary of State for Industry (Chairman)
Secretary of State for Employment
Secretary of State for the Environment
Secretary of State for Scotland
Secretary of State for Wales
Secretary of State for Trade
Secretary of State for Energy
Chief Secretary, Treasury

Legislation Committee (L)

"To examine all draft Bills and such statutory instruments as may be referred to it; to consider arrangements for debate in Parliament of proposals for the European Economic Community secondary legislation; to consider arrangements for dealing with Private Members' business; and to keep under review the Government's policy in relation to issues of Parliamentary Procedures."

Lord Chancellor (Chairman)
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Leader of the House of Commons
Lord Privy Seal
Lord President and Leader of the House of Lords
Secretary of State for Scotland
Secretary of State for Wales
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury
Captain, Gentlemen-at-Arms
Attorney General
Lord Advocate
Financial Secretary, Treasury

Home and Social Affairs (H)

"To keep under review social and other domestic matters which are not within the terms of reference of any other Committee; and to consider proposals for legislation when necessary."

Home Secretary (Chairman)
Lord Chancellor
Secretary of State for Employment
Lord President and Leader of the House of Lords (CSD)
Secretary of State for the Environment
Secretary of State for Social Services
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Secretary of State for Scotland
Secretary of State for Wales
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Secretary of State for Education
Chief Secretary, Treasury,
Minister of Transport
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury
Captain, Gentlemen-at-Arms

You wish to make the general point that, while it may well be necessary in due course to add one or two to these Committees, or set up some ad hoc Committees, you intend to start on a very tight rein because Ministers can easily be enticed into spending too much time in too many Committees. This Government intends to conduct its affairs in an orderly and purposeful way.

8 May 1979