



Prime Minister

Mr Fowler reports on the Dept of Transport aspects of the regional organisation scrutiny. Nothing very new here. MFD 16/11/11.

MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE

PRIME MINISTER

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SCRUTINY OF THE JOINT REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

*OTO to MAP*

Michael Heseltine has written to you to let you know what he and I have in mind on the major proposals of the recent Rayner study team scrutiny of our regional offices. I entirely endorse what he is proposing.

Some of the report's recommendations are concerned only with the Transport functions of the joint offices. I should add a few words about these.

Generally, neither roads nor public transport present the same problems from one region to another. For example, there is more work to be done on the motorway programme in the south than in the north, because the north was given most of the early benefit. What I need to do, therefore, is to arrange the manning to suit the local problems. This is a pragmatic approach, but it will have some common features.

First, I intend to merge the six Road Construction Unit Headquarters with the regional offices (which on the proposals which Michael and I are putting to you will be headed by six Regional Directors, instead of eight as hitherto). We shall need to decide in the differing local circumstances how to move towards locating the offices together: at present the Road Construction Unit Headquarters are all in different towns from the Regional Offices.

MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE



Secondly I shall want to look at the future staffing for assessment of TPPs (Transport Policies and Programmes, which are submitted annually by the counties) and Transport Supplementary Grant, and also at the control of development adjacent to trunk roads.

I expect to achieve a closer knit organisation and a reduced workload and to score staff savings on both counts.

I am sending copies of this minute to members of H Committee and to Derek Rayner.

NORMAN FOWLER