



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 January 1981

Alan Jim

The Lord President has received a copy of Sir Derek Rayner's submission to the Prime Minister of 19 December. In this submission, Sir Derek Rayner reports on progress in implementing the results of last year's Rayner projects, offers an interim report on the 1980 Scrutiny Programme, and provides a commentary on the lessons which can be drawn from this work.

The Prime Minister regards this as an excellent report, and has asked that it should be circulated to all members of the Cabinet.

The Prime Minister hopes that all her colleagues will read the report carefully. She would like to draw attention in particular to paragraphs 28, 30 and 35 which will be helpful to Ministers in choosing subjects for future scrutiny; and to paragraph 31, which summarises some of the major lessons which have emerged from the Programme to date.

Paragraph 35 also draws attention to the rise in the costs of central government in the last year. This will be the subject of separate discussion in Cabinet, on the basis of a paper which the Lord President will be circulating in due course. The Prime Minister will want her colleagues to devote particular attention to the problems of these cost increases, and she hopes that they are already considering how the ideas in Sir Derek's report can assist them.

I am sending copies of this letter, with a copy of Sir Derek Rayner's submission, to the Private Secretaries to other members of the Cabinet, to Jim Nursaw (Law Officers' Department), David Wright (Cabinet Office) and Clive Priestley (Sir Derek Rayner's Office).

Yours sincerely

Mike Patterson

Jim Buckley, Esq.,
Lord President's Office.