

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

7th January, 1982

Clive Whitmore Esq.,
Principal Private Secretary to
The Right Honourable
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street, SW1.

Ref: FL 07/62/13

Dear Clive,

The Efficiency Strategy 1982

The Scrutiny Programme

Thank you for your letter of 15th December 1981 inviting departments to offer proposals for the 1982 scrutiny programme.

Legal Aid

We have recently agreed with DHSS that it would be right to establish a joint Rayner study to look at the administrative procedures for means assessment of those applying for civil legal aid. This activity costs an estimated £5.5 million in manpower and related costs and is undertaken by DHSS on the Lord Chancellor's behalf. The present arrangements have been in force for some time and could appropriately now be reviewed: the proposed starting date could probably be Autumn 1982. The other details of the study have yet to be settled in discussions between DHSS and ourselves.

Personnel Management Scrutiny

We should also participate in the scrutiny of personnel management functions recently announced by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

I appreciate that the information I have given for the Legal Aid Study does not indicate the terms of reference or names of examining officers, and that the proposed starting date is not early in the New Year. But we had been given to understand that, as a small Department which had completed a full-blown management review as recently as 1981, we should not have a scrutiny at all this year, and we could not assign anyone of the right quality to this scrutiny before Autumn 1982.

Yours sincerely,
Richard Collon
M.H. Collon

John A. ...
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Dear Sir,

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...

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the matter mentioned therein. The same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours truly,
John A. ...

Very truly,
John A. ...

John A. ...
John A. ...
John A. ...