

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Clive Whitmore Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

13 January 1982

Dear Clive,

In your letter of 15 December 1981 you invited Ministers to put forward at least one proposal to the Prime Minister for inclusion in the 1982 Rayner scrutiny programme.

Lord Gowrie, the Minister with direct responsibility under the Secretary of State for Rayner scrutinies in Northern Ireland, had already written to the Rayner Office in October 1981 with a proposal for inclusion of a Northern Ireland project in the 1982 programme. As mentioned in the fourth paragraph of your letter, the proposal related to land activities by central government departments in Northern Ireland, the precise proposed Terms of Reference being as follows:-

"To review the arrangements for the acquisition, management and disposal of land by Northern Ireland Civil Service Departments and the Northern Ireland Office and to make recommendations".

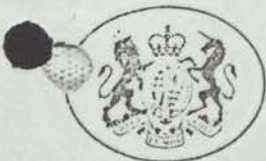
Sir Derek Rayner responded in November 1981 indicating his approval to a scrutiny of land acquisition, management and disposal arrangements in Northern Ireland and suggested that it be proposed for the 1982 programme. I attach a copy of Lord Gowrie's letter to Sir Derek Rayner which explained briefly the background to the proposed scrutiny.

The Scrutiny Team will be led by Mr D W Alexander, a Principal in the Department of the Civil Service and will report directly to Lord Gowrie. The Team has already given some thought to a Study Plan and intend to commence detailed work on the scrutiny as soon as possible.

*Yours sincerely
Mike Hopkins*

M W HOPKINS

LF



Minister of State

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Sir Derek Rayner
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

21st October 1981

Dear Sir Derek,

EFFICIENCY AND WASTE IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

My team of officials working on Rayner projects are putting the final touches to an Action Plan following their Employment Service scrutiny and I hope to have this with you shortly. I am therefore in a position to propose a new area for scrutiny which the Team might undertake fairly soon.

My predecessor, Michael Alison, agreed in principle, and I support his view, that a useful area for Rayner scrutiny would be the acquisition, management and disposal of land by the Northern Ireland Civil Service. Northern Ireland Departments are involved in this area to varying degrees although those with major interests are the Departments of Health and Social Services, Environment, Finance, Agriculture and Commerce.

Some of these departments are however involved in very specialised use of land and it may be that we are attempting too much by examining it all. Nevertheless since considerable resources are being devoted towards "land" activities throughout the Civil Service, I want to ensure that these are being utilised as effectively as possible and that land is being acquired, managed and disposed of in the most cost-effective manner.

I am aware that this is setting my Team a considerable task and I am sure they would welcome any advice you or your officials might offer on how to approach such a wide-ranging assignment. I would not be keen to narrow the terms of reference to cover a single Department such as Environment because I am convinced that the exercise should be carried out on a wider basis.

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In the light of these comments the terms of reference which I am proposing for the Study are as follows:

"To review the arrangements for the acquisition, management and disposal of land by Northern Ireland Civil Service Departments and the Northern Ireland Office and to make recommendations".

With your approval, my Team would hope to begin work on this scrutiny soon, with the aim of having a study plan with you within three weeks of commencement. The Scrutiny Team which carried out the Employment Service scrutiny would also be responsible for this proposed Scrutiny. It would again be led by Mr D W Alexander, a Principal in the Department of the Civil Service. The Team will report to me at intervals throughout the study.

G. S.
G. S.

LORD GOWRIE