

cc Lord Carrington
Sir Derek Rayner

Prime Minister

THE EFFICIENCY STRATEGY 1982 : THE SCRUTINY PROGRAMME

1. You asked that proposals for the 1982 Scrutiny Programme should reach you by 15 January.
2. As far as the ODA Wing of the FCO is concerned I propose that our scrutiny for 1982 should be an examination of the work of the ODA's professional advisers (excluding the Economists). This is an important area which I believe needs very careful study; and I see from your Principal Private Secretary's letter of 15 December that the work of professional advisers generally is regarded as being a strong candidate for scrutiny. This is certainly my view, for the ODA advisers, the majority of whom occupy senior grades (ie SPSO and above), perform a central function in the management of the Aid Programme, notably in project identification and monitoring.
3. An outline of our proposal in the form requested is attached. Oversight of the scrutiny at Ministerial and Permanent Secretary level will be exercised by myself and Sir Peter Preston (and his successor).
4. I take this opportunity of confirming that we shall be undertaking this year the further examination of the personnel and finance functions in each Wing of the FCO requested in Mr Pattison's letter of 6 April 1981 to Mr Walden in the FCO about the FCO/ODA Common Services Review.
5. I am copying this minute to the Secretary of State and to Sir Derek Rayner.

N.M.

NEIL MARTEN

Overseas Development Administration
18 January 1982



18 JAN 1962





WORK OF THE ODA'S PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Subject

An examination of the work of the ODA's professional advisers (excluding the Economists) both at HQ and in the Development Divisions, focussing on such aspects as their role and functions, the numbers required in each grade, their deployment and their relationship with administrative staff.

Cost

There are some 55 staff (39 in London and 16 overseas) at a current annual cost of £2.1m. Their work is central to the management of the bilateral aid programme in particular.

Reasons for selecting the Subject

Major organisational changes were made following the ODA Management Review in 1980, particularly the brigading of Advisers with Geographical Divisions and the merging of certain high level administrative and advisory posts. There has since then been an increasing emphasis on the need to monitor closely aid projects and programmes, especially in the bilateral programme. It is important to assess the role of the Advisers in this process, and the numbers likely to be required. Changes of emphasis in the Aid Programme since 1979 also make it desirable to review the role of Advisers in assisting the implementation of current policies.

Terms of Reference

To consider the requirement for, and the role and organisation of, the ODA's professional advisers (excluding the Economists), both at HQ and in the Development Divisions in the formulation of policy and in the management of the Aid Programme, especially in project monitoring; and to recommend any changes that may be required.

/Dates



Dates

The study is expected to start in about March/April,
and to last up to 3 months.

Examining Officer

[To be forwarded shortly]

19 JAN 1994

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