



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

Clive Whitmore Esq
Principal Private Secretary to
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

21 January 1982

Dear Mr Whitmore

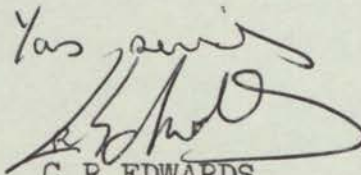
THE EFFICIENCY STRATEGY 1982 - THE SCRUTINY PROGRAMME

Your letter of 15 December invited Ministers to submit their proposals for the 1982 Rayner scrutiny programme.

My Secretary of State proposes a study to examine all aspects of the administration and enforcement of the goods vehicle licensing system taking account of the parallel features in the PSV operator licensing system. A study in this area was in fact suggested by Sir Derek Rayner following an earlier review which looked inter alia at the forms used for goods vehicle operator licensing. Sir Derek expressed the view that such a study should include a review of the policy; but this has been the subject of a very thorough recent examination, and we shall be writing shortly to Sir Derek on this point. Full details of the proposed project are annexed.

As you know from his acknowledgement of 13 January, my Secretary of State has also been considering the suggestion made in Baroness Young's letter of 22 December that Departments should give thought to mounting scrutinies of operational areas which include agency work by the Post Office. The only relevant part of this Department's activities is the issue of vehicle excise duty licences and this is only a small part of the Post Office's counter business. Its expansion is very recent, and it is rather early to dig the arrangements up in a scrutiny. But if there were some study of Departments' use of the Post Office to provide services over the counter we should be interested. Perhaps the best way forward would be for Treasury to chair an official meeting of all Departments concerned to consider whether something could be done by way of a scrutiny from which we might all benefit.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely

C R EDWARDS
Private Secretary



22 JAN 1962

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT: RAYNER SCRUTINY 1982

(1) SUBJECT

The examination of all aspects of the administration and enforcement of the goods vehicle operator licensing system.

(2) COST

Total expenditure, including staff costs, of the licensing system is £8m p.a.

(3) REASONS FOR SELECTING THE SUBJECT

The proposed study is based upon a suggestion made by Sir Derek Rayner following an earlier review which looked inter alia at the forms used in the goods vehicle operator licensing system. The statutory independence of the Licensing Authorities has led to the proliferation of locally-produced forms supplementing those centrally provided by the Department, and to a wide variety of procedures.

(4) TERMS OF REFERENCE

To examine all aspects of the administration and enforcement of the goods vehicle operator licensing system, including its financing, with particular reference to the various forms and procedures used in the Department of Transport's Traffic Area Offices, to ensure that the implementation of Part V of the Transport Act 1968 is fully cost effective, taking account as appropriate of the parallel features of the PSV operator licencing system.

(5) PROPOSED STARTING AND FINISHING DATES

About three months from 1 March 1982.

(6) NAMES OF EXAMINING OFFICERS AND MINISTERIAL REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

The appointment of the scrutiny officer(s) and details of the reporting arrangements have still to be finalised.