



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref:

Your ref:

4 February 1982

Dear Clive

THE EFFICIENCY STRATEGY 1982 - THE SCRUTINY PROGRAMME

Your letter of 15 December invited Ministers to submit their proposals for the 1982 Rayner scrutiny programme by 15 January. I am sorry that we are a little late in replying.

My Secretary of State proposes that his next Rayner scrutiny should examine the cartographic service in DOE (including the Regional Offices). DOE at present provides a ready service on demand of high standard cartographic work. Not all functions require work of very high quality but there is no means at present of identifying priorities or different levels of need. For certain types of work it might be possible to buy in capacity from outside, but without a detailed study it is impossible to say what is the minimum level and quality of service to fulfil the Department's essential needs. Full details are given in the annex.

My Secretary of State has also been considering whether he should put forward a Departmental scrutiny for PSA for the 1982 programme. PSA has, however, already agreed to take part in two co-ordinated reviews this year - the resources control review of executive operations and the review of personnel management. Taking into account the large number of scrutinies and reviews already carried out by the Agency as well as the many internal reviews at present in hand, my Secretary of State takes the view that it would not really be appropriate for him to offer a further PSA scrutiny for 1982.

D A Edmonds

D A EDMONDS
Private Secretary

(1) Subject

Cartographic services in DOE (including the Regional Offices).

(2) Costs

Departmental staff costs: about £1.4m (including overheads).

(3) Reasons for Selection

A ready service on demand providing a high standard of cartographic work and support facilities has become accepted as normal in DOE. Not all functions require work of very high quality but there is no means at present of identifying priorities or different levels of need. For work that is straightforward, easily specified and not of high priority it might be possible to buy in some capacity from outside. But without a proper study it is impossible to say what is the minimum level and quality of service to fulfil the Department's essential needs.

(4) Terms of Reference

To examine the level and quality of service provided by DOE cartographic services; to consider what level and quality of service is needed in each area; to consider accordingly whether this service could be provided more economically, including what aspects if any might be contracted out.

(5) Proposed Timetable

About three months from 1 April 1982.

Names of Examining Officers and Ministerial Reporting Arrangements

The appointment of the scrutiny officers and details of the reporting arrangements have still to be finalised.