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PRIME MINISTER

VALUE FOR MONEY

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You wrote to me on 27 May about value for money. Kenneth Baker and his predecessors have built good foundations here in DOE and I intend to take full advantage of these to make further progress in this important area.

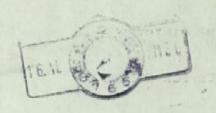
Robin Ibbs and Kenneth discussed DOE's value for money targets on 15 May. My officials are already taking forward the work required as a result of that meeting. In addition, as part of the continuing refinement of MINIS, my officials are now working towards the specification of the next MINIS round (MINIS 8) which begins in the autumn. This includes strong emphasis on policy performance indicators - essential elements in the value for money equation. The aim is to provide indicators tailored to the needs of top and line managers throughout DOE, and I have asked my Permanent Secretary to keep in touch with Robin Ibbs and his staff about this.

I myself last met Robin in May, when I was in my previous post. I am therefore very aware of his thinking. I look forward to discussing progress in DOE with him when plans for MINIS 8 are firm in the early Autumn.

I am copying this minute to Robert Armstrong and Robin Ibbs.

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