



NEW ST. ANDREW'S HOUSE  
ST. JAMES CENTRE  
EDINBURGH EH1 3SX

*nbpm*

The Hon Peter Brooke MP  
Minister of State  
Treasury Chambers  
Parliament Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 3AG

18 September 1986

*Dear Peter,*

STAFF INSPECTION

Thank you for the copy of your letter of 27 August to Douglas Hurd about Departments' recent staff inspection performance.

I can confirm that I receive details of my Department's staff inspection effort, which is being stepped up in the current year. Given the other demands upon us, I do not believe that we shall ever be able to achieve the 5 or 6 year cycle of inspection which you quote as a general guide: nor, indeed, do I think that this approach represents the best value for money which we can obtain from our necessarily limited staff inspection resources. The approach we have adopted is one of careful selection of the areas for inspection in accordance with a programme approved by the Management Group. This enables us to cover potential trouble spots or areas where significant changes may be possible more frequently than under a cyclical system.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Armstrong, and Sir Robin Ibbs.

*at flap*

MALCOLM RIFKIND

Gov't Mach: Rayner PT21

