

Ref. A086/3108

MR WICKS

c Miss Kate Jenkins

Improving Management in the Civil Service

X | Thank you for sending me a copy of your note of 29 October to Kate Jenkins about the bidding letter for the Efficiency Unit's scrutiny on improving management in the Civil Service.

--- 2. I should like to suggest a slightly revised working of the letter. I think that this needs to be carefully handled if it is to be productive.

3. I should of course be happy to discuss this with Sir Robin Ibbs and with you.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

31 October 1986

Cleared with Kate Jenkins
NLW
3.11

BR2AXC

DRAFT MINUTE FROM MR N L WICKS TO SIR ROBIN IBBS,
CABINET OFFICE EFFICIENCY UNIT

Improving Management in the Civil Service

The Prime Minister discussed recently with you the next steps in improving management and efficiency in the Civil Service.

The Prime Minister recognises that great strides have been made in improving management and efficiency in the Civil Service during the last few years. That achievement is a tribute to the professionalism and dedication of managers and staff at all levels in Departments. Now she sees the need as being to build on what has been achieved and maintain and where possible accelerate the momentum of improvement.

(9 by RTA)
She would like the Efficiency Unit to carry out a scrutiny with the aim of identifying what needs to be done to ~~maintain that momentum, and~~ bring about further improvements in efficiency and management throughout the Service.

She suggests that in order to carry out this exercise the Efficiency Unit should talk to a number of Ministers and Permanent Secretaries, as well as to other managers. The aim would be not to institute more systems, but to identify obstacles to progress and give a renewed stimulus to action. The Unit, in their discussions with Departments, might concentrate on:

- the progress achieved in improving management in the Civil Service;
- what measures have been successful in changing attitudes and practices;
- the institutional, administrative, political and attitudinal obstacles to better management and efficiency that still remain;
- what further measures should be taken.

The Prime Minister would be grateful if you could supervise this scrutiny and report to her on its findings by February 1987.

I am copying this minute to the Private
Secretaries to Ministers in charge of Departments
and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

GOVT MACH: Rayner: Part 21

