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21 February 1984

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
Secretary of State for the Environment

Dear Patrick

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE REVIEWS: URBAN PROGRAMME

Thank you for your letter dated 8 February which I have seen on my return from the Far East. I have subsequently been pleased to learn that while I have been away officials have settled a way forward that meets the essential requirements.

I think we both have the same objective in this matter. The label attached to the work is not particularly important provided the approach is rigorous and is seen to be so. However, I should not want to be associated with a cosmetic exercise nor to have my interest in the matter represented as some narrow "efficiency" view (your inverted commas!). I have emphasised to the Prime Minister the opportunity I see for Ministers to achieve better value for money through determined use of all the techniques now available to examine programmes, policy and performance. I hope the work on the urban programme will be a splendid example and I look forward to seeing the results.

Copies go to the Prime Minister, Peter Rees and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever

ROBIN IBBS

Leon Pa: Public Exp.

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