



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

PRIME MINISTER

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICES

I have read with interest Paul Channon's minute of 14th January to you about reviewing Government statistical services which he copied to Arthur Cockfield and myself. I should say at once that I fully endorse his idea of mounting such a general review.

2. Of my departments the Inland Revenue, the Customs and Excise and the Department of National Savings collect statistics largely for their own purposes whilst the Treasury, though not a significant collector, is a major user of statistics collected in other departments. I therefore think it is important that economies in individual departments should be assessed in relation to the effects on the statistical system as a whole. I therefore welcome the idea of a systematic review and I would think it important that studies in individual departments should be supplemented by a central assessment of costs and priorities. While CSO should be aware of our interests in most respects, we would hope to be consulted as users at relevant stages of the review.

3. I am copying this to those to whom Paul Channon copied his minute.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'G.H.' with a flourish.

(G.H.)

18 January 1980

22

1910

CONDICION

18 JAN 1910

12
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

CONDICION





10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Channon is now ready to review Government statistical services. You have been pressing for this.

Derek Rayner is to be in charge. One of his projects focussed on statistical services at Trade and Industry. He regards the report as one of the very best. I have put a marked-up copy in the weekend box in case you would like to glance at it.

1. Agreed that the review should be set in hand as proposed in Mr. Channon's attached minute (Flag A), for completion by the end of the summer? (The Chancellor's minute at Flag B supports the proposals.)

2. Would you like to mention this in Cabinet as requested by Mr. Channon?

Yes

MAD

18 January 1980