

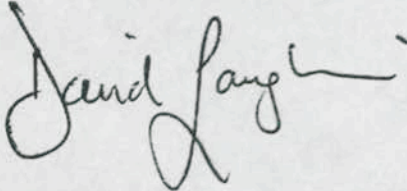
MR M A PATTISON

CABINET: 31 JANUARY

... The Prime Minister has kindly agreed to mention two forthcoming reviews at the next Cabinet, a review of Government Statistics, and a review of the leak procedure. I attach speaking notes.

Sir Ian Bancroft has asked me to suggest that, as far as the review of statistics is concerned, the Prime Minister's attention should be drawn to the fact that several departments already have studies of aspects of their statistical activity in hand. An example is Mr Heseltine's initiative, involving other departments with local authority expenditure, to reduce the information burden on local authorities. The intention is to build on this work, where it exists, and not to duplicate it. (In the case of Mr Heseltine's initiative, it is due to be completed by Easter and there is no intention to seek to alter this timetable or to expect results which will conflict with the general review.)

I am copying this minute to David Wright in Sir Robert Armstrong's Office.



DAVID LAUGHRIN
PS/Sir Ian Bancroft

29 January 1980

SPEAKING NOTE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER
REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT STATISTICS

I have authorised Paul Channon to set in hand a general review of the government's statistical activities.

I have asked Sir Derek Rayner to conduct the review and to report to me at the end of the summer with recommendations for improved efficiency, cost savings and tightened cost control.

h Part of the review should be a series of departmental studies building on any work already being done. v

The review should also take a hard look at statistics which are said to meet the needs of more than one Department or the public at large. This includes the work of the Central Statistical Office.

4 I would be grateful if Ministers would give their full support. We need to assure ourselves both collectively and individually that the work being done in our name meets real needs and is being done efficiently. 4

Govt Mach



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

If time permits, you may wish to mention two matters which you have undertaken to raise with Cabinet colleagues.

I attach speaking notes on

- (1) review of leak procedure;
- | (2) review of Government statistics.

MAD

6 February 1980

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RH

BF 6/2/80

30 January 1980

Thank you for your minute of 29 January, enclosing speaking notes for the Prime Minister to use at Cabinet on the Review of Government Statistics and the Review of the Leak Procedure.

You may like to know that the Prime Minister does not now propose to mention these matters this week, as Cabinet has a heavy agenda. We will nevertheless keep the notes to draw on when there is a better opportunity: next week looks possible.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. A. PATTISON

KRF

D P Laughrin Esq
Civil Service Department

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