



Mr. Fletcher - Please will you deal  
 NBPM I suggest, and I  
 doubt whether anything needs to be done  
 other than acknowledge and say that this  
 scrutiny will be included among those in  
 which the PM will take an interest. But  
 you may wish to check with Mr. Priestley.

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

FEB  
 25.3.

Michael Scholar, Esq  
 No 10 Downing Street  
 LONDON SW1

24 March 1983

*New Michael,*

CENTRALLY CO-ORDINATED EFFICIENCY EXERCISES 1983:  
 THE SCRUTINY PROGRAMME

In his minute to the Prime Minister of 18 February, the Chancellor mentioned that he did not propose a separate departmental scrutiny for the domestic Treasury in 1983, but referred to the forthcoming review of the CCTA. In his letter of 15 March (copy enclosed) Clive Priestley reported that the Prime Minister had suggested that the Chancellor might consider bringing this review into the scrutiny programme, and that she would wish to take a particular interest in it.

The Minister of State (C) had in fact already discussed the status of the CCTA review with the Lord Privy Seal, and both had agreed that it would be best to include the CCTA review within the scrutiny programme. The Chancellor too agrees. The review will start in April and will be conducted by Dr Freeman, the CCTA Director. His report is expected in the autumn.

Copies of this letter go to Clive Priestley in the Rayner Unit, to Mary Brown in the Lord Privy Seal's Office, and to Ros Dunn in the Minister of State's Office.

*Yours ever,*

*J O Kerr*

J O KERR  
 Principal Private Secretary



FWE

RM

cc: C. Hestley  
M. Brown, LPS  
R. Dunn. HMT

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

25 March, 1983

Thank you for your letter of 24 March about the forthcoming scrutiny of the CCTA. The Prime Minister has noted the Chancellor's decision and will, as has already been indicated, wish to take a special interest in the scrutiny.

I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of yours.

(Timothy Flesher)

J. Kerr, Esq.,  
HM Treasury



MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Telephone Direct line 01-273 3508  
GTN 273  
Switchboard 01-273 3000

Week-end EXCHEQUER

16 MAR 1983

Mr Wilding 163  
FST, MSTC  
MSTR, Sir A. Warr,  
Mr Moore,  
Mr Gilbert JNS  
PS (IR, PS/CTE)  
15 March 1983

J Kerr Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Chancellor of the Exchequer

(Handwritten initials in a circle)

Dear Sir,

CENTRALLY CO-ORDINATED EFFICIENCY EXERCISES 1983: THE SCRUTINY PROGRAMME

The Prime Minister was grateful for the Chancellor's minute of 18 February nominating the scrutinies in Customs & Excise, DNS and the Inland Revenue.

2. Mrs Thatcher welcomes the suggested topics for the Customs & Excise and the Inland Revenue. In both cases she judges that the proposals should maintain the departments' excellent record of contributions to the Government's efficiency programme and will wish to take a particular interest in the joint Inland Revenue/DHSS scrutiny. Mrs Thatcher has therefore asked the Rayner Unit to keep her in close touch with its progress and outcome.

3. The Prime Minister considers the Department of National Savings suggestion to be, at best, marginal. She would have thought that this kind of limited issue could be handled as part of the day-to-day management of the department and she is surprised that it is envisaged to spend a full 4 months of the examining officer's time on it. The Prime Minister would be grateful, therefore, if the Chancellor would consider whether this work might be done in a much shorter timescale, say, 60 working days, in which case she would be willing to include it in the programme as a limited scrutiny. Mrs Thatcher would also be grateful if a more substantial topic could be sought - possibly to start later in the year.

4. The Prime Minister agrees that the main Treasury need not undertake a scrutiny in 1983. She notes that Dr Freeman will be surveying the role and operation of the CCTA. She believes that the scrutiny approach would have much to commend it for undertaking such a review and would be grateful if the Chancellor would consider bringing this study into the scrutiny programme - in which case she would be pleased to take a particular interest in its conduct. Mrs Thatcher believes that the development of technologies

for application in the civil service offers scope for systematic improvement in civil service productivity. She is keen that the role and procedures associated with the central departments should be designed to encourage departments to make cost-effective gains urgently.

5. I am copying this to Mary Brown (Lord Privy Seal's Office).

*Yours truly,*

*C Priestley*

C PRIESTLEY  
Head of the Rayner Unit

CVT  
MATCH  
Copy of 13

25 MAR 1983

