



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 November 1983

Dear Sir John,

Barney Hayhoe will be making a Written Statement shortly about your report on the Government Statistical Services 1982-83. I should like to congratulate you and your staff on the splendid progress it records. The improvements in efficiency and the reduction in the number of forms sent out reflect very great credit on all involved. Well done!

Yours sincerely
Raymond DeLia

Sir John Boreham, K.C.B.

VC
aco

56



10 DOWNING STREET

CHARLOTTE PLATMAN

The Prime Minister has now written to Sir John Boreham to congratulate him on his report on the Government's Statistical Services. I attach a copy, together with a minute to me about this, from Lindsay Wilkinson.

Could you please now arrange for the related Parliamentary Question to be tabled and answered?

JMB

18 November 1983

*Answered
with*

*B Hayhoe's
Office*

21/11

CS.



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

You wanted to write to Sir John Boreham before Mr Hayhoe makes a statement about the Report on the Government Statistical Service. I attach a draft.

DMB

17 November 1983



Ref. A083/3264

MR BARCLAY

David

Would you kindly inform Charlotte Stevens when the Prime Minister has written to Sir John Boreham in order that she can make the necessary arrangements for tabling and handling of the related Parliamentary Question.

*Thank you
Lindsay*

LINDSAY WILKINSON

15 November 1983

GR : Please type attached draft for PM's sig, with a cover note as follows:

" You wanted to write to Sir John Boreham before Mr Hayhoe makes a statement about the Report on the Government Statistical Service. I attach a draft."

DRAFT MINUTE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO

SIR JOHN BOREHAM KCB.

Government Statistical Services: Annual Report 1982-83

I would like to congratulate you and your staff on the splendid annual report which you produced on the Government Statistical Services 1982-83. The results demonstrate substantial progress in implementing recommendations in the Review of the Government Statistical Services (Cmnd 8236).

Bamey Hayhoe will be making
written
a statement about this shortly.

Bamey Hayhoe will be making a Written Statement shortly about your report on the Government Statistical Services 1982-1983. I should like to congratulate you and your staff on ^{the} splendid progress it records. The improvements in efficiency and the reduction in the number of ^{sent out} forms ^{very} reflect ^{well done!} great credit on all involved. ~~Well done!~~

I know, too, that you are determined to keep up the good work. Well done!

Ref. A083/3264

MR BARCLAY

Would you kindly inform Charlotte Stevens when the Prime Minister has written to Sir John Boreham in order that she can make the necessary arrangements for tabling and handling of the related Parliamentary Question.

LINDSAY WILKINSON.

15 November 1983

DRAFT MINUTE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO

SIR JOHN BOREHAM

Government Statistical Services: Annual Report 1982-83

I would like to congratulate you and your staff on the splendid annual report which you produced on the Government Statistical Services 1982-83. The results demonstrate substantial progress in implementing recommendations in the Review of the Government Statistical Services (Cmnd 8236).

Gyork March : Review of Stats Oct 79.



FILE

607

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 October, 1983

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICES: ANNUAL REPORT

1982/83

The Prime Minister was grateful for Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 10 October about handling of the Report on the Government Statistical Services.

The Prime Minister is content with the draft question and answer. She is minded to write to Sir John Boreham to congratulate him on the results so far. I should be grateful if you could provide a draft, suitably timed in relation to the proposed statement.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mary Brown (Lord Gowrie's Office), and Mike Corcoran (Mr. Hayhoe's Office).

(David Barclay)

Richard Hatfield, Esq.,
Cabinet Office

A handwritten signature in the bottom right corner of the page.

(1)



Prime Minister

Agree the draft

Written Answer?

Ref. A083/2849

PRIME MINISTER

*Yes - I think we
may not write and
congratulate
Sir John on the
results
no.*

*Dms
14/10*

Government Statistical Services:
Annual Report 1982-83

You asked me to discuss with Sir John Boreham the handling of the report of the Government Statistical Services. This I have done. I recommend that the report should not be published, but I propose that (as last year) a Parliamentary Question for written Answer be tabled.

- 2. I attach a suggested Question and Answer on the lines of that which Mr Hayhoe gave on 28 July 1982 to demonstrate the progress in implementing the recommendations in the Review of the Government Statistical Services (Command 8236).
- 3. I am sending copies of this minute and the draft Question and Answer to Lord Gowrie and Mr Hayhoe.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

10 October 1983

Government Statistical Services (Review)

QUESTION: TO MINISTER FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE

What further progress has been made in implementing the recommendations in the Review of the Government Statistical Services (Cmnd 8236)?

ANSWER: Statisticians continue to provide a wide ranging service of information, advice and analysis in every Government department.

The target saving arising from the Review of Government Statistical Service (Cmnd 8236) were £26½ million. By April this year £25 million had already been implemented. It is expected that savings will rise to £28½ million a year by April 1984.

These savings will mean that staff and administrative costs in the Government Statistical Services have been reduced by a quarter since 1979. During that period the number of forms sent out to businesses has also been very substantially reduced. In 1982 one million fewer forms were sent out than in 1979: - a reduction of a third.

The credit for this substantial progress rests firmly with the members of the service. They will continue their efforts to realise further savings.

The system of departmental statistical budgets will be an important tool in managing statistical resources. It is being successful in generating greater awareness amongst statisticians and their customers of the costs of the service and in stimulating them to question existing methods and processes and to examine alternative ways of doing things. It will be made more effective by relating costs to clearly stated objectives and measures of output.