



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 March 1984

Dear David,

Scrutinies and Value for Money

Thank you for your letter of 8 March registering the Prime Minister's concern that final implementation of the scrutiny into the generation and the transmission of information should not slip beyond 1985/86.

We have no intention of losing momentum. The great majority of the recommendations made in this scrutiny have already been implemented and action is well in hand on the remainder. We have already achieved 90% of the envisaged staff savings.

Final implementation cannot be achieved before 1985/86 because one recommendation, proposing the increased use of teletexts with corresponding reductions in Diplomatic Bag services, depends upon the introduction of a computerised message handling system. Our plans for achieving this by the middle of 1985 are still on target. In the meantime, however, we have looked for other ways of making economies in bag services.

I am glad to say that by regular review of routes and schedules, we have already been able to save around £450,000 at 1981/82 prices.

I am copying this letter to Sir Robin Ibbs (Efficiency Unit) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

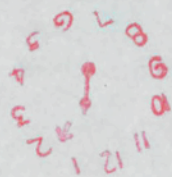
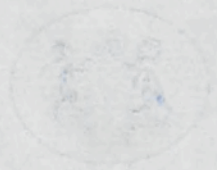
Yours ever,  
Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

David Barclay Esq  
10 Downing Street



GSST Machinery Pt 15  
Raynor Programme



19 MAR 1984





FIG 84

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

23 March, 1984

Scrutinies and Value for Money

Thank you very much for your letter of 19 March. I am sure the Prime Minister will be glad to note the 10% savings in the Diplomatic Bag services through streamlining.

The Efficiency Unit will be in touch with your Department directly on some more detailed points.

DAVID BARCLAY

P. F. Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

ECL



GR  
ms pr.

Sub  
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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 March 1984

Mr Barclay

~~Dear Jan,~~

Thank you. The FCO letter is a good result and with a slight follow up. Draft attached.

TB 2/iii

You will have received a copy of the Foreign Office reply to my letter of 8 March about scrutinies and value for money. Unless I hear from you to the contrary I shall assume that no further letter at Private Secretary level is required.

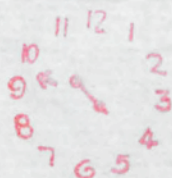
Yours ever,  
David

David Barclay

I.B. Beesley, Esq.,  
Efficiency Unit.



21 MAR 1984





DRAFT PRIVATE SECRETARY LETTER

P F Ricketts Esq  
Private Secretary  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SCRUTINIES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

Thank you very much for your letter of 19 March, which <sup>I am sure</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>will be</sup> ~~is~~ encouraging. She is particularly glad to note that ~~you have managed to achieve~~ <sup>the</sup> 10% savings in the Diplomatic Bag services through streamlining. ~~Presumably the cost of the savings to be realised after the introduction of an electronic message handling system will be met in substantial part by savings in the FCO budget as a direct result and from other action.~~

~~and she has~~

# The Efficiency Unit will be in touch with your Department directly on some more detailed points.

D BARCLAY





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

8 March 1984

Scrutinies and Value for Money

The Prime Minister has recently been looking at the state of play on improving value for money in government through scrutinies and closely related work. She continues to be impressed by what can be achieved in this way and hopes that Ministers will continue to target scrutinies on good areas and that Permanent Secretaries will use their best people as examining officers.

The Prime Minister feels, in addition, that we need to maintain a strong presumption that scrutinies lead to prompt decisions and action. She is concerned that, unless momentum is maintained, the system will clog up and prevent the right sense of urgency being achieved.

On the basis of the data you supply to the Efficiency Unit, Mrs. Thatcher noted that final implementation of the 1981 scrutiny into the generation and transmission of information will be completed in 1985/86 and commented that it is to be hoped that the work will not slip.

I am copying this to Sir Robin Ibbs and Sir Robert Armstrong.

(David Barclay)

Brian Fall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office