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From the Minister for the Arts

23 March 1984

David Barclay Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

Dear David,

nbpm
DMS
27/3

SCRUTINIES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

Thank you for your letter of 8 March about the follow-up to the Rayner Scrutiny Report on the Science and Victoria and Albert Museums published in 1982. The two new Boards of Trustees will assume full responsibility for the running of the museums on 1 April 1984.

As Lord Gowrie has told Sir Robin Ibbs, he will be writing to the Chairmen of the Boards of Trustees to draw to their attention the recommendations contained in the scrutiny which were remitted to them for action and to ask for their views and proposals for action within 6 months of assuming responsibility. The procedure and timetable were, of course, already set out in the Government's action document last year (paragraph 11).

I hope this will reassure the Prime Minister that we are keeping up the momentum.

Copies of this letter go to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely,
Mary

MRS M E BROWN
Private Secretary

GOVT MBWA: Baynes
pt 15

27 FEB 1984





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 important decisions from the 1982 scrutiny of the Victoria and Albert and Science Museums have been deferred until the Trustees have settled in. She hopes that it will be possible to ensure that the Trustees will deal with these outstanding matters promptly.

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

(David Barclay)

Mrs. Mary Brown,
Office of the Minister for the Arts