



ce NO.

Attends further minute
from Lord Young

PRIME MINISTER

SCRUTINY OF BURDENS ON FIRMS

I have seen the minute from David Young's office of 12 December about how to follow up this scrutiny.

Attached

Reports by the individual departments have been submitted to the Ministers concerned and I expect the central report to be available on 8 February. From what I have seen of the work so far, I think it will be a good idea to put one Minister in the lead to secure prompt and imaginative implementation of the findings across government. Obviously David Young has the time and energy for this.

It is, however, important not to weaken the sense of responsibility in departmental Ministers to respond constructively to what can be done in the areas they control. It will not be helpful if all the difficult problems are merely heaped on David Young. To avoid this I suggest you should not nominate a Minister to take the lead until after you have received and commented on the central scrutiny report. In the meantime, you could usefully ask those Ministers involved in the scrutiny to give you a reaction to the broad thrust of the proposals in the relevant departmental reports, which they received before Christmas, by the time the central report is submitted.

I attach a possible letter from your private secretary on these lines.

I am copying this to David Young and to Sir Robert Armstrong only.

ROBIN IBBS
18 January 1985



DRAFT PRIVATE SECRETARY LETTER TO THE HOME SECRETARY'S OFFICE

SCRUTINY OF BURDENS ON BUSINESS

The Prime Minister is keen to see progress to remove as many obstacles to entrepreneurial activity as possible and looks to the scrutiny to identify what must be done to lessen the burdens of government on business. When the central report on the scrutiny is submitted early next month she will wish to consider how the recommendations can be taken forward urgently to action. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister would be grateful if the the Home Secretary and other Ministers involved in the scrutiny could indicate their reactions to the broad thrust of the proposals in the relevant departmental scrutinies. She considers it would be particularly helpful to have these by the time the central scrutiny report is expected (8 February).

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of Ministers in charge of Departments, to Ian Beesley in the Efficiency Unit, and to Richard Hatfield in Sir Robert Armstrong's Office.