



## 10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 February 1985

DEREGULATION

BF | The Prime Minister has seen the minutes of 11 February from the Minister without Portfolio and 6 February from Sir Robin Ibbs about the follow-up to the scrutiny of burdens on business. She would be happy, as suggested in those minutes, to chair an early meeting of senior Ministers to give a general steer to the work arising from the scrutiny recommendations. This has been arranged for 26 February. The Prime Minister has agreed to the establishment of a Group under Lord Young with the membership proposed.

The Prime Minister considers it is necessary to distinguish the work of the group from that of the further Group under Lord Young's chairmanship envisaged in the ambit of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Competition Policy (E(CP)). The deregulation group should concentrate on minimising the burden of regulation on business, leaving Lord Young's other group to cover promoting competition by removing obstacles to enterprise. She therefore suggests the following slightly revised terms of reference:

"To consider the Central and Departmental Reports of the Scrutiny of Administrative and Legislative Burdens on Small Firms; to consider what follow-up action should be taken; to prepare a timetable for action, to accelerate and to monitor progress thereafter; more generally to consider how the burden of regulation on the economy can be kept to a minimum; and to make recommendations to the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Economic Affairs (E(A))".

She considers that the question of early publication of a version of the central scrutiny report requires specific discussion at her meeting; it could be unhelpful for the Government if early publication led to the creation of expectations of early action which were later disappointed as Ministers decided not to accept particular recommendations. It would be helpful, therefore, for officials of the Efficiency Unit and the Department of Trade and Industry to prepare a draft version of the published report to be considered at the meeting.

SLH

I am sending copies of this letter to Margaret O'Mara (H M Treasury), Callum McCarthy (Department of Trade and Industry), Hugh Taylor (Home Office), John Ballard (Department of the Environment), Steve Godber (Department of Health and Social Security), David Normington (Department of Employment), Paul Thomas (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office), Paul Madden (Mr Trippier's Office), Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office) and Ian Beesley (Efficiency Unit).

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