



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 April 1985

L3A-P MEA

CF  
arranged for  
Wed 5 June  
at 1600

~~Caroline~~  
Can we arrange a slot for one  
hour please, when diary permits.

Met 3/5

VALUE FOR MONEY IN GOVERNMENT

Your Secretary of State will recall that when Sir Robin Ibbs gave a presentation to Cabinet Ministers on 10 May 1984 the Prime Minister said that she had it in mind to hold a series of small "value for money" seminars. The intention would be for Ministers and their Permanent Secretaries to describe examples of how value for money in operations and programmes had been improved in the past year and what improvement they were planning.

Sessions have so far been held involving the Home Secretary, and the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the Secretary of State for Scotland. The Prime Minister intends to continue the series with a further session at which she would be grateful if your Secretary of State would cover the Department of Employment Group to describe his recent improvements in value for money and his targets for future improvements. I will shortly be getting in touch with you to arrange the meeting.

The Prime Minister is keen to keep the sessions small, but your Secretary of State might want to be accompanied by his Permanent Secretary. The discussions are not to be seen as a starting point for the new round of expenditure negotiations and apart from the Prime Minister, the only others present will be Sir Robin Ibbs, Sir Robert Armstrong and Robin Butler.

The Prime Minister hopes that your Secretary of State will speak for up to 20 minutes, roughly half to display the main value for money improvements actually achieved in the past year and roughly half to explain what is going to be achieved. This would be followed by a further 40 minutes of discussion.

I am sending copies of this letter to Sir Robin Ibbs and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

MARK ADDISON

David Normington, Esq.,  
Department of Employment.