

PRIME MINISTEREFFICIENCY SCRUTINIES

You asked the Efficiency Unit last November for a report on the implementation of efficiency scrutinies. That report is now attached, under a covering minute ~~from Sir Robin Ibbs.~~ (Flag A)

The report is a useful stock-take of the scrutiny programme. It shows that major savings and other improvements have been made as a result of the programme (£750 million cumulatively to date). It also shows that once a scrutiny report is submitted there is a tendency for the "umph" to get lost. If the resulting delays had been cut, the extra cumulative savings could have amounted to £300 million.

Sir Robin Ibbs endorses the report's recommendations that more attention now needs to be focussed on speeding up implementation. Sir Robert Armstrong agrees the three key recommendations that Sir Robin Ibbs draws out.

Content with these recommendations, and with the draft Private Secretary letter Sir Robin Ibbs has provided at Flag B? If so, you may also like to consider asking Sir Robin to up-date you regularly, perhaps annually, on the scrutiny programme as a whole. This would give you the opportunity to take stock of the extent to which this scrutiny report has been successfully implemented.

(13)

Mark Addison

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16 May, 1985