

cc cw

cc-Cabinet  
+ c/w H/L  
c/w H/C  
Ld Adv.  
L.O.D.



10 DOWNING STREET

SHZAHG 881

NB

2 enclosures

17 May 1985

(coming over from Cab. Off.)  
Robin Ibbs

From the Private Secretary

In David Barclay's minute of 29 November Sir Robin Ibbs was asked to supervise a study of the implementation of efficiency scrutinies. The Prime Minister has now received his report.

She is impressed by the evidence that implementation of often lacks the same sense of urgency as the scrutiny itself. She is concerned at the cost to the taxpayer of the delay in achieving savings and other improvements. She endorses the main recommendations, which are:

- (i) to make the Permanent Secretary accountable for achieving swift results from each scrutiny without diminishing the involvement of Ministers.
- (ii) to start out with the intention to achieve substantial improvements within two years of the start of each scrutiny.
- (iii) to ensure continuity between the scrutiny and its implementation.

I enclose two copies of the report (one for your Minister, one for your Permanent Secretary). The Prime Minister hopes that your Minister will ensure that these changes are brought about in his department - not only for the new scrutinies starting this year but also for those from previous years where results have not yet been achieved.

She has asked Sir Robin Ibbs to report to her regularly on the progress being made towards ensuring that scrutinies are implemented as speedily as possible.

MARK ADDISON

Private Secretaries to Ministers in Charge of Departments

LRB





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

17 May 1985

The Prime Minister has seen your minute of 14 May, and agreed that I should write out to Departments in the way you suggest.

The Prime Minister also asked if you would arrange for her to be updated regularly, she suggests annually, on the progress being made over the scrutiny programme as a whole towards speedier implementation. I have added this point to my letter to Private Secretaries (copy attached).

I am sending a copy of this to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

MARK ADDISON

Sir Robin Ibbs

*AP*

*file*  
*cc Co*  
*SS*