

B. R.

PRIME MINISTER

VALUE FOR MONEY SEMINAR WITH DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT:
WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE at 1615 HOURS

Tomorrow's meeting is the latest in a series of similar seminars. You have had sessions so far with the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the Secretary of State for Scotland. The idea is for Ministers and their Permanent Secretaries to describe examples of how value for money in operations and programmes has been increased in the past year and what improvements they are planning.

The format is that Tom King will give a presentation for about 20 minutes (an overhead projector will be used) covering first what has been achieved and then what is going to be achieved. The rest of the hour will be taken up in discussion. The briefing from Sir Robin Ibbs is attached. One point to remember is perhaps that much of the Department's work is essentially demand led (eg unemployment benefit service, the Youth Training Scheme with its guarantee to unemployed minimum age school leavers). Unit costs are therefore a vital measure of performance, and you will wish to press the Department on the ways they intend to develop the most cost-effective form of provision in, eg the YTS.

Mark Addison

(MARK ADDISON)

4 June 1985