

020



Prime Minister (1)

You asked for Sir Robin's views.

PRIME MINISTER

Agree (i) small central unit can be set up?

JOINT CO-ORDINATION UNIT

Yes

(ii) Sir Robin should be consulted on terms of reference, objectives and targets?

Peter Rees sent you a minute on 29 November about his proposal to set up a joint unit to coordinate the inspection and consultancy work of the Central Departments and to assist in the implementation of the CIR report.

ibbs  
4/12

The report emphasised that it was essential that the central departments should work together in the management support area. If the central departments consider that by setting up this new group they will have the means of beginning this process, that is a matter for them and I would not wish to second guess them.

There are a number of areas where central coordination is desirable and it would be wasteful to set up separate units. For example, I assume that among its terms of reference, this joint unit will have responsibility for maintaining the momentum of the FMI, and the review of the organisation and role of the CIR Services of the central departments referred to in the second paragraph of Peter's minute to you.

However, the effectiveness of this unit must be judged by its results. These can only be measured if it is given very clear objectives and targets which set out what it is expected that the unit should achieve and by when. I shall be interested to see the terms of reference of the unit together with its objectives and targets when these are developed.

I am copying this to Peter Rees, Grey Gowrie and Robert Armstrong.

Robin Ibbs

in

ROBIN IBBS  
4 December 1984

[Dictated by Robin Ibbs and signed in his absence]

file



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

6 December 1984

INSPECTION AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES IN DEPARTMENTS

The Prime Minister has considered the Chief Secretary's minute of 29 November about inspection and consultancy services, in conjunction with Sir Robin Ibbs' comments in his minute of 4 December.

The Prime Minister agrees that a small central unit, drawn jointly from the Treasury and MPO, should be set up to give a lead in implementation of the CIR report. She also agrees that the establishment of the new unit may now be announced.

The Prime Minister would be grateful if Sir Robin Ibbs could be consulted about the terms of reference of the unit, together with its objectives and targets, as he asks in his minute of 4 December.

I am copying this letter to Paul Thomas (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office), Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office) and to Sir Robin Ibbs.

David Barclay

Richard Broadbent, Esq.,  
Chief Secretary's Office,  
H.M. Treasury.