

CA papers

File JA (1)



cc Min/Portfolio  
Treasury  
D of Env  
FCO  
Robin Ibbs

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 September 1985

**JOINT DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND DHSS STUDY  
OF LOCAL OFFICE NETWORKS**

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's minute of 19 September and your letter to me of 25 September.

The Prime Minister has agreed to your Secretary of State's proposed study of the relationships between the DE and DHSS networks and local offices. She has however proposed that the second sentence of the terms of reference should be amended to read:

"The study should aim to promote efficiency and value for money....."

She has further proposed that a designated official should be put in charge of the study, which should be made a scrutiny, that the man or woman concerned should be made personally responsible for recommending how the system can be made to give a better service to the claimant at a lower cost to the taxpayer, and that an action manager should be appointed now who would be held responsible for making a go of the project once the recommendations are accepted. She has asked that the help and advice of Sir Robin Ibbs and the Efficiency Unit should be sought in setting up and carrying out the scrutiny.

I am copying this letter to Leigh Lewis (Minister without Portfolio's Office), Mrs Rachel Lomax (HM Treasury), Mike Bailey (Minister for Local Government, Department of Environment), Hayden Warren Bash (Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office), and to Sir Robin Ibbs.

(DAVID NORGRIVE)

Giles Denham, Esq.,  
Department of Health and Social Security.