



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

David Norgrove Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

23 December 1985

NBA7.

Dear David

JOINT DHSS/DE STUDY OF LOCAL OFFICE NETWORKS

Thank you for your letter of 28 November.

My Secretary of State (and Lord Young) fully accept that the rigour and discipline of the scrutiny technique should be adopted in the network study, and the work is proceeding accordingly. The Study Team leader, guided by the joint Steering Committee, is being given responsibility for ensuring that workable proposals are put to Ministers which promote efficiency and value for money and an action manager, well placed to oversee implementation across Departments, will be appointed once a decision has been taken on options. The DHSS Steering Committee Chairman has written to Andrew Jackson welcoming him as a new member.

I am sorry that my reply to your earlier letter was delayed by, amongst other things, the need for Ministers both here and in DE to consider the Prime Minister's proposals. The Study Team is committed to a tight timetable for putting forward proposals - which accords with the usual scrutiny technique. I think we have the substance of the scrutiny approach here, adapted to the particular requirements of this very important inter-departmental study, and we will be getting advice from the Efficiency Unit as you recommended.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Leigh Lewis (Department of Employment), Rachel Lomax (HM Treasury), Mike Bailey (Department of the Environment) Paul Thomas (Mr Luce's office) and to Sir Robin Ibbs.

Yours
Giles

Giles Denham
Private Secretary

Social Services Pt 4
Review

