

Prime Minister

PRIME MINISTER

I think DHSS would be a good one to do. We have not look at their administration recently and you have been concerned at, e.g., the number of doctor they employ.

VALUE FOR MONEY SEMINARS

FEES

I attach a note from Ian Beesley suggesting that the next in the series of these seminars should be with the DHSS. 14.4.

From one point of view, the timing seems right to help get the changes flowing from the Social Security Reviews off to the right start, and to keep up the pressure on the NHS. On the other hand, the DHSS patch seems to have been gone over fairly thoroughly recently, and I understand you have had several meetings with Mr. Fowler which have covered 'value-for-money' ground. Perhaps another Department, e.g., Employment, Environment, would be more suitable?

Content for me to set in hand arrangements for the next seminar? For DHSS, or another Department?

Yes - another Dept. DHSS has enough on its hands already - we will do them in October next

Max Acher

4 April 1985

DRAFT PRIVATE SECRETARY LETTER TO:

S A Godber Esq
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for Social Services

VALUE FOR MONEY IN GOVERNMENT

Your Secretary of State will recall that when Sir Robin Ibbs gave a presentation to Cabinet Ministers on 10 May 1984 the Prime Minister said that she had it in mind to hold a series of small "value for money" seminars. The intention would be for Ministers and their Permanent Secretaries to describe examples of how value for money in operations or programmes had been improved in the past year and what improvement they were planning.

Sessions have so far been held involving the Home Secretary, and the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the Secretary of State for Scotland. The Prime Minister ^{intends like} intends to continue the series with a further session, ~~to be held at [] on [], at~~, ^{at} which she would be grateful if your Secretary of State would describe his recent improvements in value for money and his targets for future improvements. ^{I will be in touch to arrange a} ~~switchable time slot, probably next early~~ ^{Mid May.}

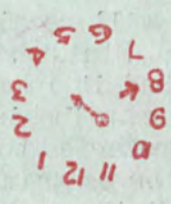
The Prime Minister is keen to keep the sessions small, but your Secretary of State might want to be accompanied by his Permanent Secretary and by the Chairman of the NHS Management Board. The discussions are not to be seen as a starting point for the new round of expenditure negotiations, and apart from the Prime Minister, the only others present will be Sir Robin Ibbs, Sir Robert Armstrong and Robin Butler.

The Prime Minister hopes that your Secretary of State will speak for up to 20 minutes, roughly half to display the main value for money improvements actually achieved in the past year and roughly half to explain what is going to be achieved. This would be followed by a further 40 minutes of discussion.

I am sending copies of this letter to Sir Robin Ibbs and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

SS (5)

Govt Machinery : Kaynes p 17



- 3 APR 1985



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MR ADDISON

VALUE FOR MONEY SEMINARS

It is now just over four months since the Prime Minister had the last seminar with George Younger to assist his plans for improving value for money. My impression is that the seminar was successful and has stimulated a more urgent and positive approach in the Scottish Office to setting and achieving more precise and stretching targets.

I suggest it would now be useful to plan a third seminar for fairly soon after Easter. Our preferred choice would be the Department of Health and Social Security for three main reasons:

- (1) Sir Kenneth Stowe is keen to show what the department is doing. The seminar would support and reinforce him and help to secure the positive involvement of the Secretary of State in value for money matters.
- (2) On social security the department will be subject to sweeping changes with the impact of the social security reviews and widespread computerisation.
- (3) The National Health Service is yet to come to terms with the Griffiths proposals. There are vast improvements to be had in the NHS yet the hiatus over the general manager job has contributed, in part, to a loss of pressure for an effective NHS scrutiny programme to realise the potential. We must re-assert the urgency.

If the Prime Minister agrees with the suggestion, I enclose a draft private secretary letter inviting the Secretary of State for Social Services to the next seminar.

I am copying this to Sir Robert Armstrong.

IB

IAN B BEESLEY
2 April 1985