

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



*W Addin*

HOUSE OF LORDS.  
LONDON SW1A 0PW

27th January, 1986

MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE

Sir Robin Ibbs,  
70 Whitehall,  
London,  
SW1.

*nbpm*

*Dear Sir Robin,*

Departmental Responsibility for Tribunals

The Lord Chancellor has seen a copy of Nigel Wicks' minute to you of 14th January seeking your views on the suggestion that there should be a comparative study of tribunal management under the auspices of the Efficiency Unit.

The Lord Chancellor has asked me to let you know that, while he understands the point made in the MPO paper, he would prefer that before any decision is taken on the possible scrutiny his officials should first have an opportunity to consider, in consultation with other Departments as necessary, the implications of the Report's proposals for tribunal transfers, having regard, among other things, to any perceived efficiency considerations for the transfer of a particular tribunal. His experience of the four tribunals for which he presently has administrative responsibility, and the four reviews so far undertaken (all of which have considered the scope for improvements in efficiency and effectiveness) is that circumstances vary to such an extent that at this stage at least early and detailed reviews by his officials of the working methods of each, and of such indicators of efficiency as the relative cost per case in different tribunals, is preferable to a wider-ranging and thus less specifically directed scrutiny.

I am copying this letter to Nigel Wicks (No.10) and Michael Stark (MPO).

*Yours sincerely,  
Richard Stote*

Richard Stote