

PRIME MINISTER

23 October 1986

The Scrutiny Programme

Some questions you might ask Sir Robin Ibbs. ms

1. Recommended savings

For 1985/6 the value of recommended savings was £132m per year, higher than £44m in 1984 and £22m in 1983. But what were the actual savings in 1984 and 1983? Has the Unit monitored the implementation of their recommendations?

2. 1985/6 Programme

Out of 26 scrutinies for this year, 9 show no recommended savings at all and 11 recommended savings of less than £3m per year. Some of these are big programmes e.g. Balance of Health Care with a value of £676m shows no recommended saving as does Skillcentre Training Agency with a value of £80m. This somehow seems implausible. Is it?

Other programmes also yield a small saving e.g. the Community Programme spending £1000m gives a saving of £17m per year and ammunition procurement spending of £360m a saving of only £18.476m per year. Why is this?

3. Implementation

"Progress on implementation is still not as good as it should be - there are still delays in reaching decisions and in implementing accepted recommendations."

Why is progress slow? What are the examples of delays? How can they be improved?

4. FCO Report

"There was an extremely good FCO Report which successfully tackled the issue of how to measure output from the FCO's activities and how to use this to improve performance."

We wonder what sense this would make to M & S, Hanson Trust or Ford?

BG.

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David Hobson

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