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cc. Mr Chivers.
copy off.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 December 1984

Dear Sir Terence.

Thank you for your letter of 5 December on the Government's scrutiny of administrative and legislative burdens. I am grateful for your offer of help.

The original plan was that the seven Departmental scrutinies should report by 21 December, and that a central report should then be prepared by 25 January.

The seven Departmental scrutinies are now well advanced, and to maintain a sense of urgency I should like to stick to the plan that they report before Christmas. But to take advantage of your offer I have instructed that they should not be regarded as the last word on the subject and that the central study team, under David Trippier's guidance, should be given an extra two weeks to prepare its wider report on the issues. This will enable them to take account of any general points in material submitted by the CBI up to 18 January.

Subsequent ideas can be taken on board in the follow-up to the scrutiny but it would be better if you could get them to us by 18 January.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Sir Terence Beckett, CBE.

ECA

1. Mr Beesley
2. Mr Turnbull

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cc Sir Robin Ibbs o/r
Mr Warry

SCRUTINY OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BURDENS

Sir Terence Beckett wrote on 5 December asking for more time (unspecified) for the CBI to submit evidence to this Scrutiny.

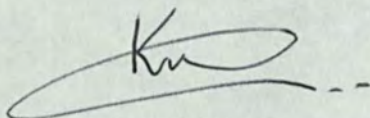
2. The present timetable is:

- 7 Departmental scrutinies (IR, C&E, DOE, DTI, HO, DE and DHSS) to report by 21 December.
- Central report by 25 January '85

3. It would be a mistake to hold up the Departmental reports. Better to say that they will be regarded as provisional, and allow the central study team - Mr Brecknell (DTI) and myself - an extra two weeks to improve on them.

4. The CBI could then be offered until 18 January to submit their evidence. I would recommend against a longer extension, which would lose the urgency of the scrutiny.

5. I attach a draft letter which has been agreed with Mr Brecknell. You will want to send blind copies to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Home Secretary, the Secretaries of State for Employment, the Environment, Health and Social Services and Trade and Industry, the Minister without Portfolio and Mr. David Trippier.



Kit Chivers
10 December 1984

Sir Terence BECKETT



14/12

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Ack'd 7/12.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR BEESLEY
EFFICIENCY UNIT

Scrutiny of Administrative and Legislative Burdens

You agreed to provide a draft reply to Sir Terence Beckett's letter to the Prime Minister, a copy of which is attached.

I am copying this minute to Mr. Peretz (HM Treasury) and Mr. Madden (Mr. Trippier's office, DTI).

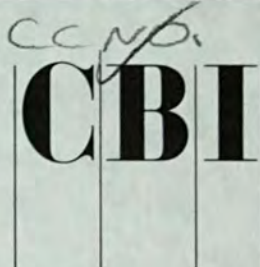
Andrew Turnbull

7 December 1984

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Confederation of British Industry
Centre Point
103 New Oxford Street
London WC1A 1DU
Telephone 01-379 7400
Telex 21332

From
Sir Terence Beckett CBE
Director-General



The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1

5 December 1984

CF
PPS

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Dear Prime Minister,

Scrutiny of Administrative and Legislative Burdens

We were delighted to hear that you had instituted a scrutiny of the administrative and legislative burdens placed on business. The impact of regulation on business, and in particular on new and small firms, is an issue of great importance, not least in the context of job creation.

We appreciate your desire to get something done quickly and are doing all we can to feed ideas and examples in to your Scrutiny Team by their deadline of 21 December.

Our membership consultations have shown just what a rich field for change this is. We are most anxious that the initiative is taken forward after this first scrutiny, broadening out to consideration of the problems of larger firms, and to sector specific issues. In this context many of the sectoral trade associations amongst our members have told us they would greatly welcome the opportunity to contribute their experiences, but this will take a little longer. And we would all appreciate the time to go more deeply into some of the points our first considerations have identified.

Can I therefore urge you to continue this important work in the New Year, and offer you the CBI's assistance in taking it forward.

I am copying this letter to the Chancellor and David Trippier.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Beckett