



JH 755a

Prime Minister ①

A valuable exercise provided it is conducted with minimum bureaucracy  
Agree X and Y?

CC No

AT 7/10

PRIME MINISTER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BURDENS ON SMALL FIRMS

We discussed at our recent meetings the importance of further reducing the bureaucratic burdens and legislative restrictions on business.

I should have thought this was a routine matter. I don't like scattering review around

conferences

However we should need to identify the

2 Following that I propose that we should now set up a small working group of those Ministers most involved to examine the burdens and restrictions weighing on small companies. I would expect them to report back to me with firm proposals for improvements within six months.

Minister involved

their content

Such a group should be set up from No 10 - but I doubt

3 I would propose to take the chair myself at the first meeting of the group, and then hand over to David Trippier for subsequent meetings. I propose to invite colleagues from Treasury, Environment, Health and Social Services and Grey Gowrie (because of his particular interest in the problem of forms). Other Ministers could be invited if a particular subject required it.

is necessary not

4 I am keen to give a visible sign of our determination to continue our programme of assistance to small companies. If this proposal meets your approval I may decide to announce it on

X

Y



Thursday at the Party Conference.

5 The appendix lists the broad headings that I would ask the group to examine.

6 I am sending copies of this minute to Nigel Lawson, Patrick Jenkin, Norman Fowler, Grey Gowrie and Sir Robert Armstrong.

C.P.

C P

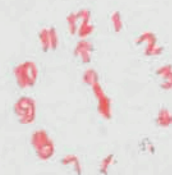
7 October 1983

Department of Trade and Industry

List of Broad Headings to be Examined by Committee of Ministers

- i) procedures for the collection of PAYE, VAT and other taxes;
- ii) the existing requirements for statistical returns and form filling;
- iii) the procedures for obtaining aid under Government schemes, particularly those of the Department of Trade and Industry;
- iv) planning procedures, although the DOE Planning Circular 22/80, which is being re-issued has speeded up planning applications by small firms;
- v) employment legislation, especially the procedures of Industrial Tribunals;
- vi) health and safety regulations;
- vii) the regulations and procedures of Highway Authorities and the Department of Transport;
- viii) social security legislation and procedures;
- ix) deposits required from start-up businesses by some nationalised industries.

7 OCT 1983





10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 October 1983

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BURDENS ON SMALL FIRMS

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's proposal in his minute of 7 October to set up a Ministerial group to examine the burdens and restrictions on small companies. She has also noted his wish to announce this at the Party Conference.

The Prime Minister has commented that much of the ground was gone over earlier by David Mitchell and she considers this subject should be treated as a routine matter, not requiring establishment of a high-level Ministerial group. It follows, therefore, that she would not wish your Secretary of State to make such an announcement, which in any case she feels should have come most properly from her after seeking the consent of the Ministers involved.

I am sending copies of this letter to Margaret O'Mara (HM Treasury), Roger Bright (Department of the Environment), Ellen Roberts (Department of Health and Social Security), Mary Brown (Minister of State's Office, Privy Council Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

B. Shaw (empt)

Andrew Turnbull

Steve Nicklen, Esq.,  
Department of Trade and Industry.

N/R