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Sir Peter Middleton KCB  
Permanent Secretary

RESTRICTED

Sir John Boreham KCB  
Central Statistical Office  
Great George Street  
LONDON  
SW1

30 April 1985

*Dear Sir John*

BRIEFING ON MONTHLY PSBR PRESS NOTICE

In 1983 we agreed that we should tighten up the security arrangements for PSBR figures before publication. We have done so, and it appears to have worked well.

I am of course responsible for circulation of the monthly PSBR numbers in the Treasury, and I would not normally trouble you with details of changes. But I felt that it would be only courteous to let you know that I am adding all the Treasury Ministers to the list for circulation of the press briefing in the middle of the morning of publication. Although it is only a few hours before publication, so that it can hardly add significantly to the risk of leaks, it will assist them a good deal in preparing for questions which may be thrown at them as soon as the figures are published. This can be particularly important when publication is on a Thursday and the Treasury has First Order Questions.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Robin Butler.

*Yours sincerely*

*Douglas Board*  
*(Private Secretary)*  
P E MIDDLETON

-T MAY 1985

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cc JR

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EFFICIENCY UNIT

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Mr Turnbull

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE CONTRACTS

Thank you for your minute of 23 April. I have asked the Efficiency Unit to put an initial study in hand with the aim of reporting by the end of June.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries to whom you copied yours. I should be grateful if those in spending Departments would each give to Mr Chivers in the Unit (233 7762) the name and address of a contact in their Department with whom to liaise on this work.

ROBIN IBBS  
29 April 1985

cc Mr Taylor (HO)  
Mrs Lomax (Tsy)  
Miss Hodgkinson (DES)  
Mr Reidy (DEn)  
Mr Mottram (MOD)  
Mr Graham (Scottish Office)  
Mr Jones (Welsh Office)  
Mr Ballard (DOE)  
Mr Godber (DHSS)  
Mr Mogg (DTI)  
Mr Broadbent (Chief Secretary's Office)  
Mr Allan (DTp)  
Mr Hatfield (CO)