



Prime Minister

(2)

SCOTTISH OFFICE Ms 1/2
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

The Rt Hon Baroness Young
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Management and Personnel Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AZ

1 February 1982

Dear Janet,

CPRS REPORT ON THE NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES
PROPOSALS FOR SPONSOR DEPARTMENTS

At the meeting of E(NI) on 3 December 1981 it was agreed that sponsoring Ministers should write to you to advise whether they would welcome Rayner scrutinies in their Departments, on the lines set out in your minute of 2 December 1981 to the Prime Minister, and to indicate whether they would welcome further advice by the Management and Personnel Office.

The Scottish Office is the sponsoring Department for three nationalised industries - the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board, the South of Scotland Electricity Board and the Scottish Transport Group. As I explained in my minute of 18 September 1981 to the Prime Minister I regard each of these as being in the category of small nationalised industries which were not explicitly considered by the CPRS study, and relations between these industries and the Scottish Office appear to be somewhat more harmonious than in the case of the larger industries. My proposals for building up our expertise in dealing with these nationalised industries, which included drawing upon the more specialised expertise introduced into the relevant parts of the Department of Energy and the Department of Transport, were accepted by the CPRS as being probably sufficient (E(NI) (81)7 refers). The Secretary of State for Energy is already considering the possibility of a scrutiny covering his Department's relations with the Electricity Supply Industry in England and Wales and I consider that my main interest as a sponsoring Minister would be covered by that scrutiny. I do not at this stage therefore wish to press for a formal study of the sponsoring divisions in the Scottish Office, but I shall study with interest the outcome of any studies which colleagues instigate. I do not for the moment envisage seeking further advice from the Manpower and Personnel Office but I shall, of course, keep this possibility under review.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of your minute of 2 December 1981.

Yours ever,
Crawford