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THE PRIME MINISTER

17 February 1988

Dear Mr. Kinnock,

Thank you for your letter of 12 February about the report of the Efficiency Unit known as 'The Next Steps'.

Many of the press reports which have been published about the contents of the report are inaccurate and misleading. I am hoping to make a statement about the report shortly. But I can say now that we intend that the principles of accountability of the Civil Service to Ministers and through them to Parliament will remain unchanged.

Since you copied your letter to the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and the Chairman of the Treasury and Civil Service Committee, I am sending them a copy of this reply.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. Neil Kinnock, M.P.

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