

CONFIDENTIAL

National Health



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 April 1980

Thank you for your letter of 16 April in our continuing correspondence about the London Advisory Group.

The Prime Minister was interested to see the breakdown of staff on the health and personal social services side of the Department. She has noted your description of the responsibility of the Regional Group, and has commented that she finds it extraordinary that the Department needs both to cover this work itself through the Regional Group and then to seek parallel advice from three groups.

I do not think we need take this further at present but the Prime Minister may well raise this issue with your Secretary of State at some future stage, and you will wish to keep us informed well in advance about any future appointments similar to that of Professor Habakkuk.

MS

Don Brereton, Esq.,
Department of Health and Social Security.

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PRIME MINISTER



PRIME MINISTER

You asked about numbers of DHSS staff working on health; these figures cover health and personal social services.

This letter is a

response to your queries at flag

B. I have attached the entire correspondence.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

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Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

N Sanders Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

mys 18/4

Play I have the letter to which this is reply

16 April 1980

MAD 17/4

entire correspondence that this need to be done the London members need 3 advisory visits to be done

Dear Nick,

I apologise for not replying before now to your letter of 24 March about the London Advisory Group.

My Secretary of State is keenly aware that this group must be seen to be acting as a vigorous aid to the resolution of London problems and Ministers will be keeping in close touch with their work to ensure that progress is made.

At present 2,800 staff work on the health and personal social services side of the Department; this is 6 per cent less than in April 1979. This figure includes administrative, executive and clerical etc staff and their professional colleagues (including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, social work service officers, scientific and technical staff, architects, engineers and surveyors).

The five main Groups dealing with the Department's HPSS work are:

- Services Development - 300 staff
- Regional - 280 "
- NHS Personnel - 480 "
- Finance - 380 "
- Professional Divisions - 1,340 "

(including attached Clerical Support)

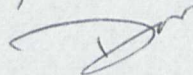
These Groups are supported by common service Divisions like Legal, Statistics, Information, Research, Management Services and Computers, Establishment and Personnel, and the secretarial, typing and messengers support services.

London Planning falls within the responsibility of the Regional Group. This Group's functions include interpreting the needs of NHS and Local Authorities as a policy input; ensuring that ministerial policies are carried out in ways that take account of local needs and resources available; overseeing the forward planning of field authorities; developing policy on structure and management arrangements in the NHS; dealing with the supply, industry and export activities of the DHSS in the field of medical, surgical and pharmaceutical supplies.

E. R.

Within the Regional Group, involved in the planning and structure of London's health services, including support for the Advisory Group, are:-

- $\frac{1}{2}$ Under Secretary
- $\frac{3}{4}$ Assistant Secretary
- 1 Principal
- 6 Executive clerical staff
- 1/5 Senior Principal Medical Officer
- $\frac{1}{2}$ Principal Medical Officer
- $\frac{1}{4}$ Principal Nursing Officer

Yours ever


D BRERETON
Private Secretary