

SIR ROBERT CLARK

cc Mr Wright (LO)

Prime Minister 2
We will let you have a draft reply.
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Confidential

8th May, 1981.

Dear Prime Minister,

Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration

When we met on 5th May you told me of the Government's intention to restrict the increases recommended in our Eleventh Report. I indicated my own immediate reactions but undertook to consult my colleagues and let you have our considered views.

I have now discussed the matter with my fellow members of the Review Body. Although we continue to believe that the recommendations in our Eleventh Report indicate appropriate levels of remuneration for doctors and dentists at 1st April, 1981, we recognise that final decisions on our recommendations are a matter for Government.

The difficulties arising for us from the decisions which the Government intends to announce are self-evident and, I know, well appreciated by you. However, we believe that the best interests of all concerned lie with our continuing to carry on with our work as an independent Review Body.

As you know, we feel that it is essential that our independence should be seen to remain intact and, as I indicated, we do not wish to be associated in any way with the Government's decision. We believe we should not be involved in any questions relating to the application of the Government's decision in advance of the publication of our report and the Government's statement on it.

I am grateful to you for the advance warning of the Government's decisions, and feel sure you will understand our position. I am sending a copy of this letter to Patrick Jenkin.

Yours sincerely
Robert Clark

Chairman, Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration

The Rt.Hon.Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
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