

Neville Taylor says DHSS Press Office are receiving a number of calls suggesting that somebody has been saying that the current cuts to be effected in the Civil Service and local authorities will include the NHS.

DHSS line is that there is no immediate plan for a moratorium or cutback in the numbers in the NHS as a Royal Commission report is expected shortly (probably in about two weeks). Any decision to change the structure of the NHS will only be taken in the light of the report's findings.

Ministers have said that they intend to streamline the NHS but Neville is most anxious that any idea that this will form part of current economies in the bureaucracy should be knocked on the head.

HGR