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THE PRIME MINISTER

18 July, 1979.

Dear Professor Gunn

Thank you for your letter of 17 July, setting out your view on how the restoration of the death penalty might affect an important area of medical and crime prevention work.

As you know, there will be a free vote on the question of the death penalty following the debate in the House of Commons tomorrow. It is important that all informed views should be aired before decisions are reached, although the vote of each Member must finally be a matter of personal conscience.

I have sent a copy of your letter to the Home Secretary, who will have a special interest in the particular points that you raise.

I shall vote to restore the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher

Professor John Gunn

LPO