

NBPN.

MR NORGROVE

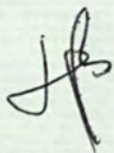
17 February 1986

cc Mr Willetts

BARRISTERS' PAY

Last week, I was approached by a representative of the Bar, who told me privately that the Bar would be prepared to settle for another 1 or 2% above the 5%, and that in return for this they would be prepared to consider rights of audience and unopposed hearings. Restrictive practices are clearly on the table for negotiation. It is clear to me that the leadership of the Bar Council wish to settle as soon as possible, but complain that the Government side have failed, either to negotiate or to be frank about their readiness to negotiate. We clearly want an advisory group to consider fee scales rights and "the way ahead".

Having noted the above, I informed John MacGregor and his Private Office. I am continuing to brush up my proposals on restrictive practices that might be extinguished.



HARTLEY BOOTH