

ATTACHED to H (86)10

PRIME MINISTER

CONTRACEPTIVE ADVICE AND TREATMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 16

You will wish to be aware of Mr. Fowler's proposal for revised departmental guidance, taking on board the points made in the Law Lords' October judgement on the Gillick case. The attached H paper sets out his views, and contains at Annex C the draft circular.

The Secretary of State does not propose legislation to define more closely the circumstances in which a doctor might act without parental consent, a course which Sir Keith Joseph thought worth considering. There seems everything to be said, in fact, for not reopening the issue in this way and for simply implementing the clear and apparently sensible code set out by Lord Fraser in the judgement.

Mr. Fowler notes that the recent and controversial GLC guidance is not a matter for Government, though he believes it strengthens the case for early publication of the revised departmental guidance.

*Mark Addison*

Mark Addison

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JALAKY