

PRIME MINISTER

You are seeing Lord Goold at 5.45 pm for half an hour.

He principally wishes to discuss his position as Chairman of the Conservative Party in Scotland. As you know, he is willing to continue in this post for as long as you would like, but will not be in the least offended if you were to ask him to stand down. Following today's discussion with the Chairman, we agreed that he should continue in post until after the Euro-elections in June next year.

I understand he has also been asking our current Scottish Members of Parliament whether or not they intend to stand again next time.

The obvious candidate for retirement is Sir Hector Monro, who has one of our few remaining safe seats in Scotland. He has indicated that he is not prepared to stand down and will run again unless he can be given a peerage. I have told Lord Goold that I think this highly unlikely and he entirely agrees, but may wish to mention it.

JW
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JOHN WHITTINGDALE
7 November 1988