



CONFIDENTIAL

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Dear Michael,

PAY REVIEW BODIES

Thank you for your letter of 22 December about the follow-up to E Committee's decisions on the Review Bodies, taken at their meeting on 16 December.

2. We have already drawn the attention of No 10 to the loose end about the arrangements for Ministerial contact with the Chairmen of the Review Bodies. Hopefully we will get instructions from them immediately after Christmas.

3. I am perfectly happy to see PSP(0) involved in the clearance of Government evidence to the Review Bodies - and if convenient to others the clearance of briefing for the meeting or meetings with the Chairmen (though in practice it may be easier to handle the latter point in correspondence).

4. One final point. The impression I had at the E meeting was that the Secretary of State for Defence was ready and anxious to put in his Department's evidence to the AFPRB very quickly. Ministers of course concluded that he should first clear this evidence with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Lord President and the Secretary of State for Social Services. But it would obviously tidier if the evidence for the three Review Bodies was handled together. Are there any snags from the Defence point of view in this?

5. I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

P Le Cheminant

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