



✓ CBG
1. Mr. Adkins
2. PA

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

G J F Podger Esq
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for Social Services
Department of Health and Social Security
Richmond House
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SW1A 2NS

1. PA
Thinking of writing to the
Treasury on opposing reference
to the "Nobel Health Service".
14th March 1988 MBX/15/3

2. pa.

Dear Mr Podger, *PA*

CENTRAL COUNCIL SPEECH - 18 MARCH

Thank you for sending us a copy of your Secretary of State's draft speech. The Chief Secretary has various comments, which the Chancellor has seen and endorsed, as follows.

- (i) **Page 2.** The reference to competitive tendering is true for England. But it should be noted that in Scotland it is still regarded as "an alien imposition" with very little progress made so far and unions having recently gone on strike about it.
- (ii) **Page 5, second paragraph.** Delete the first sentence and "Because" at the beginning of the second sentence.
- (iii) **Page 6, second paragraph.** Delete second sentence. Add at the end of the paragraph:

"And one of the main themes of the Review is how resources can be used more efficiently, without health care costs rocketing out of control as has happened in some other countries."

The following paragraph would then start: "A great variety of remedies are being proposed."

- (iv) **Page 8, line 10**

Change "are not even possible" to "are more difficult to introduce comprehensively".

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- (v) Delete the reference to Defence in the penultimate paragraph.
- (vi) **Last page.** Amend final sentence to read "... the party that will give Britain a health care system that is once again the envy of the world."

I should be very grateful if you would let me know if you have any difficulties with any of these comments.

We will shortly be letting you see the text of the Chief Secretary's post-Budget comments on the NHS.

I am copying this letter to Paul Gray.

Yours



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ZOE EVEREST-PHILLIPS
Assistant Private Secretary

NHS: Expenditure Pt. 11

