

PRIME MINISTER

You have agreed to record a video message for the NHS Review presentation up and down the country.

You generally approved the text when you saw it on Monday (~~see your response to my minute opposite~~)

I have polished it and now need your final approval overnight for the attached text so that we can put it on a teleprompter.

Agree attached text?



BERNARD INGHAM  
January 19, 1989

*the nation has (N.B. - I haven't been treated in it myself)*

At its best, Britain's National Health Service is without equal. Time and again, we have all seen just how much we owe to those who work in it.

A skilled and dedicated staff - backed by massively increased resources - have coped superbly with the growing demands of modern medicine. There is a great deal of which they, and we, can rightly feel proud.

The NHS will continue as now to be available to all, regardless of income, and mainly financed out of general taxation.

But a major task now confronts us. It is to bring all parts of the National Health Service up to the very high standard of the best while maintaining the principles on which it was founded.

All the proposals in this White Paper aim to develop a <sup>healthier</sup> National Health Service that puts patients first.

We believe that an NHS that is run better will be an NHS that can care better.

Taken together, the proposals represent the most far-reaching reform of the NHS in its forty year history.

They offer new opportunities, and pose new challenges, for everyone concerned with the running of the Service.

I am confident that those who work for it will want to seize the opportunities to provide even better health care for the millions of people who rely on the National Health Service.

*We need a better financial picture*

*and the "national" who rely upon it - will know that consideration of their needs ~~comes first~~ is paramount*