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SECRET AND PERSONAL

PRIME MINISTER

30 November 1987

NHS: NURSING SHORTAGES

One element of many blackspot problems is the shortage of nurses in particular specialties and locations. As you know, the Review Board failed to tackle this in their last report.

You might ask Mr Newton to consider the possibility of pre-empting next year's review by introducing a limited scheme of top-up incentive payments now - to attract staff into local situations of acute shortage.

- How many posts might need to be covered - and how much might it cost?
- Could it be controlled without disrupting broader pay negotiations?
- Are there enough nurses to reallocate without causing problems elsewhere?
- Can accommodation be provided where that is a key part of the problem?

*Norman Blackwell*

NORMAN BLACKWELL

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