

RESTRICTED



RA

CABINET OFFICE
P 2999.....
29 JAN 1988
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE No. _____

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

Telephone 01-210 3000

From the Permanent Secretary
C W France CB

Richard Wilson Esq
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

2
One Minute

29th January 1988

*To see how DHSS are now
gearing themselves up.*

Dear Richard,

N. L. W.

I thought you might find it useful to know how we have prepared ourselves for the work on the Health Service which we shall be doing with you.

When it seemed probable that we should be engaged in the preparation of a substantial amount of material for Ministers I asked that a good Assistant Secretary be identified to take charge of the analysis and drafting and to follow the work through, under the immediate guidance of Strachan Heppell. This was done, with the result that David Clark (a PPS to former Secretaries of State and recently engaged on the development of performance indicators and the like) is already at work. We are providing him with the necessary support including one of our best young Principals, and making sure that he has links with and appropriate assistance from the various parts of the Department that will be particularly involved in the work we are doing. Needless to say, we are not calling Clark and his team a 'review unit' or anything like that. They are simply providing extra strength in Strachan Heppell's Group.

As you know, Strachan is providing the day-to-day guidance to his new team, but Michael Partridge and I are both closely involved as well. There will be no shortage of senior management effort applied to the work on the Health Service which the Department will be doing over the next two or three months. I am sure you will feel entirely free to approach either Michael or me on any aspect of what we are doing as the work goes along.

Yours sincerely,

Chris.