

PRIME MINISTER

NHS REVIEW: MEETING ON 8 FEBRUARY

Flag D - Consultants' contracts

I attach three documents for Monday's meeting:

Flag E - Comments on summary paper by J. O'Sullivan

Flag A - A summary paper coordinated by the Cabinet Office of the main issues to be considered;

Flag B - A handling brief from the Cabinet Office;

Flag C - A paper by Sir Roy Griffiths on NHS costing systems.

The papers at A and C have been circulated to those attending the meeting.

Given the diary constraints there is only one hour for the meeting. I suggest you focus on organising the work programme for the group and identify the key pieces of work which should now be put in hand. If time permits you might want to have some brief discussion of Sir Roy Griffiths' paper although the area this covers will need to be considered again when other factual pieces of paper are available.

We are now putting in hand the organisation of regular fortnightly meetings of the group. But you may also want to consider convening other types of meetings. There are perhaps four other groups of people it would be worth involving in the discussions over the next few months:

- selected NHS managers
- a selection of consultants
- private sector operators, eg BUPA etc.
- a selection of "thinkers".

Meetings involving these groups could take one of two forms - either presentations or seminars. As a first step you might

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like to consider having a presentation by selected NHS managers of how the hospital system actually works.

You might then want to convene one or two seminars. These could either be just with one of the four groups on their own or involve a selection of people from the four groups. The latter might be more useful. You will want to consider whether to arrange such occasions at No. 10 or at Chequers.

You should also be aware of Sir Roy Griffiths' movements. He will be present at Monday's meeting. But at the end of next week he is going into hospital for a heart by-pass operation and will be out of commission for about five weeks. He does not want knowledge of the operation to be widely known and you should not mention it at Monday's meeting. But you may want to bear in mind that he will not be available for the next two or three meetings. Given pressures on your diary next week, I think any private chat you wanted to have with him will have to wait until he is back in action again.

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PAUL GRAY

5 February 1988

P.S. At Flag D is some detailed material on consultants' contracts which you might want to glance at over the weekend.

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