

PRIME MINISTER

*I fully support the  
Chief Secretary's way of handling  
the Griffiths report - one answer on  
for each.*

SIR ROY GRIFFITHS' REPORT ON COMMUNITY CARE AND LADY WAGNER'S  
REPORT ON RESIDENTIAL CARE

*What about the  
have nothing  
to say  
until a lot  
more  
work  
has been  
done  
etc*

You have already seen Sir Roy Griffiths' report on Community Care and noted the major difficulties presented by his proposal for an enhanced role for local authorities. You agreed that substantive discussion of the issues raised should be left for some weeks until further progress has been made with the (more important) NHS Review.

John Moore has now circulated a further minute (copied to all members of E(A)) setting out his proposals for the immediate handling and publication of the Griffiths' Report (see Flag A). In parallel, he has sent round a note (Flag B) summarising the conclusions of Lady Wagner's Report on Residential Care. This gives rise to similar problems to the Griffiths' Report by proposing an enhanced role for local authorities as well as the uncosted shopping list for extra spending. But the timing of publication of the Wagner Report is not in the Government's hands and it will be published by the National Institute of Social Work on 9 March.

John Moore is proposing the Griffiths' Report should be published on 16 March and that he should on that day give a bland written reply saying it will be considered in parallel with the Wagner Report. But he has oral questions on 8 March and he proposes simply to say that the Griffiths' Report has been received and to promise the further statement on 16 March.

The difficulties of handling the Griffiths' Report are increased because Sir Roy himself (who is now beginning to get back into action) is proposing to hold a high-profile press conference to accompany publication. He is going to see John Moore about this on Tuesday morning (the day of DHSS' oral questions).

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

The Chief Secretary has suggested (Flag C) a modification to the proposed handling of the Griffiths' Report. He suggested that, rather than John Moore taking two bites at it on 8 and 16 March, simply having a single reply on 8 March announcing the 16 March publication date. I see some attraction in this, which should help keep it a low profile exercise and make it easier to discourage Sir Roy from launching the document with a great fanfare.

Content to note the proposed response to the Wagner Report and to handle the Griffiths' Report in the amended way proposed by the Chief Secretary?

PRC

PAUL GRAY

4 March 1988

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