

CONFIDENTIAL

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The Rt Hon John Moore MP  
Secretary of State for Social Services  
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*MBM*

*RCC  
14/3*

14 March 1988

*Dear John*

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY CARE

*at flap P10*

I have seen your minute to the Prime Minister of 29 February which arrived while I was in the United States. I am entirely content with the way you propose to handle publication.

It should be recognised just what a massive job that Sir Roy Griffiths and his team had to undertake and they should be congratulated on the way they have exposed the issues. I am sure that Sir Roy is right when he says that community care policies will need increasing attention over the next years and that your department will have a central role in this.

I am also sure that he is right when he says that social services departments need to be enabling departments rather than purely providers. They must be encouraged to make maximum use of the private and voluntary sectors. The best authorities are receptive to this message but sadly others are not.

You are right when you say there has been a welcome growth in private provision of residential care and that we do not want to reverse that trend. Equally we do not want to pay social security when residential care is not necessary.

Amongst the proposals I do not support, is the transfer of part of the Social Fund to local authorities and clearly there will need to be detailed discussion on the report. You are also quite correct when you draw a clear distinction between Sir Roy's report and the independent review of Lady Wagner.

Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, other members of the Cabinet, the Chief Whip and Sir Robin Butler.

*Yours ever*

NORMAN FOWLER

*[Signature]*

NAT HEALTH: Expenditure

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