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PRIME MINISTER

COMMUNITY CARE: HANDLING OF THE GRIFFITHS REPORT

You will wish to see the attached exchanges between Messrs. Ridley and Moore. They are agreed (letters of 16 and 18 March) that analysis of the Griffiths Report and the various options should be carried forward in a DHSS-led official group, for consideration by Ministers before the summer recess. But you will also wish to note Mr. Ridley's view (minute of 15 March) that Sir Roy Griffiths' proposal for greater local authority involvement does have merit.

You will want to consider whether you are content for detailed work by officials to proceed without any Ministerial steer. On the one hand this might lead to a lot of work on options that Ministers would instantly reject; on the other hand, Ministerial involvement now would detract from other priorities, particularly for the NHS. One possibility might be for the Policy Unit to join the official group and to keep you in touch with the way the work is proceeding; and then for you to chair a group of Ministers to consider the report by officials.

Content to proceed on this basis?

Recg.

(PAUL GRAY)

18 March 1988

Yes - much as I should like to be more decisive at the beginning. But the Policy Unit will give the right direction

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