



*Answered wrongly.*

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY**

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*From the Secretary of State for Social Services*

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20 April 1988

*Dear Mark*

Your letter of <sup>15</sup> April sought further advice on the question of the provision of national health statistics, following my letter of 31 March.

First, may I confirm that we support the Prime Minister's conclusion; there is currently no central management need for compiling information on operations more frequently than once a year.

On the question of UK and GB statistics, we do not think that the the differing speeds of implementation of Korner (or similar) in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will affect materially the scope for producing key national figures. There have always been some differences in health statistics definitions and timings between the different parts of the UK. We have been able to overcome these problems in the past and expect to be able to do so in respect of the Korner changes.

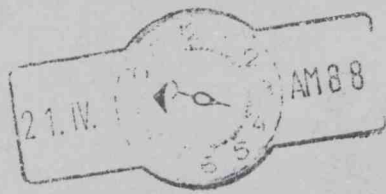
Officials here are working towards a list of comparable figures which could be produced for each of the home countries to derive overall national figures. In doing so they will be in touch with colleagues in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and will certainly take into account the need for figures on operations. And if required, national publication of such figures could be done through the normal Central Statistical Office channels.

I am sending copies of this letter to David Crawley and Jon Shortridge, and with copies of our earlier correspondence to Martin Donnelly in the Northern Ireland Office.

*Yours ever*

*Flora Goldhill*

FLORA GOLDHILL  
Private Secretary



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