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From the Private Secretary

21 April 1988

Thank you for your letter of 20 April about National Health statistics. Jon Shortridge and David Crawley have, as you know, also written.

I think it would be helpful for your officials to work with other Departments to ensure that comparable and co-ordinated figures for operations are available as early as possible. It seems that both England and Wales will have figures for the total number of operations by the summer following the end of the financial year. But from David Crawley's letter of 18 April, it looks as if Scotland might be rather later: I hope it will be possible to advance their timetable to fit in with England and Wales.

So far as 1987/88 is concerned, it also appears that Scottish figures might be available rather later than the others. I hope your officials, in consultation with other Departments, can therefore also see what can be done for this year.

I am copying this letter to David Crawley (Scottish Office), Jon Shortridge (Welsh Office), and Martin Donnelly (Northern Ireland Office). I am also sending a copy of Jon Shortridge's letter to me of 21 April to Martin Donnelly.

M. E. ADDISON

Mrs. Flora Goldhill
Department of Health and Social Security

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