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CABINET OFFICE

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P 03100

Paul Gray Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

4 May 1988

Dear Paul,

REVIEW OF THE NHS

I attach a possible timetable and programme of work for the next stages of this Review, which the Group may find it helpful to have to hand at its next meeting on 9 May.

I am copying this letter and its attachment to the private secretaries to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Social Services, the Chief Secretary, the Minister for Health and Sir Roy Griffiths and to Brian Griffiths and John O'Sullivan in the Policy Unit.

Yours,

Richard

R T J Wilson

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REVIEW OF THE NHS

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OUTLINE TIMETABLE

Note by the Cabinet Office

1. The Group may wish to consider the outline timetable attached, which sketches out a possible plan for its further work.
2. Particular points for attention include:
 - i. Links with PES. It will be important to ensure that the conclusions of the Review are taken into account in this year's Public Expenditure Survey.
 - ii. Green Paper/White Paper. The Group will wish to consider in due course whether to undertake formal consultations on its proposals. One possibility would be to issue a Green Paper and use it as a basis for consultation. Another possibility might be to aim for a relatively short White Paper which outlines, as a matter of firm policy, the main features of the reforms which the Government will introduce, but leaves the detailed implementation to discussions with the main parties concerned, with a view to introducing legislation early in the Parliamentary Session 1989-90.

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REVIEW OF THE NHS

OUTLINE TIMETABLE

9 May: Charting the way ahead. Paper by the Secretary of State for Social Services (already circulated).

: A Scheme for contracting out of the NHS. Paper by the Chancellor of the Exchequer (already circulated).

w/b 23 May: Structure and funding. Possible papers on:

- i. where responsibility for buying health care should lie (RHAs, DHAs, the future of FPCs etc.);
- ii. the machinery for funding health care (including the money following the patient), and for controlling costs (including new hospitals);
- iii. how the new regime for hospitals would work in practice, and the arrangements for accountability;
- iv. transitional steps which can be put in hand soon (eg improving information about costs, better audit arrangements).

w/b 6 June: Encouraging private sector involvement in:

- i. the provision of health care. This could cover the greater use of the private sector as a resource (eg in the building of hospitals), private sector management (eg in the running of hospitals) and private sector expertise (eg in treating illnesses where NHS waiting times are long);
- ii. the financing of health care. Further consideration of options on contracting out etc. following discussion of the Chancellor's paper.

w/b 20 June: The professions. Papers on:

- i. consultants' contracts;
- ii. the role of GPs;
- iii. the training and qualifications of nurses;
- iv. pay and manpower planning.

w/b 4 July:
w/b 20 July: Further meetings as necessary.

w/b 1 August: Circulation of first draft of Green Paper/White Paper to members of the Group before Parliament rises for Summer Recess.

September: Two meetings of the Group to discuss the draft Green Paper/White Paper.

w/b 10 October: Conservative Party Conference.

November/
December: Publication of Green Paper/White Paper (after Autumn Statement).

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NAT HEALTH

Expenditure

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