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PRIME MINISTER

REVIEW OF RAWP

Mr. Moore's minute of 10 May (Flag A) seeks approval for early any publication of the NHS Management Board's Review of RAWP and an announcement that the recommendations are accepted subject to phasing in their impact on annual health authorities' allocations.

The Chief Secretary (Flag B), Mr. Walker (Flag C) and the acust Policy Unit (Flag D) have indicated they are content with this this approach.

I was a little concerned you were being invited to sign up, without sufficient supporting material, to a proposition which could be both controversial and have implications for the outcome of the NHS Review. So I asked DHSS for further material on the impact of the Review's recommendations on different regions and suggested the possibility of early publication without commitment to the recommendations. This further DHSS material is at Flag E.

This material offers further reassurance that acceptance of the Review's recommendations on a phased basis should not cause great difficulties. It is also clear that final decisions on allocations for 1989-90, the first year to be affected, will not need to be taken until after the Autumn Statement (and hence after the target date for publication of the Review White Paper). You will, however, want to look at the table attached to the Flag E material, noting in particular the implications for North West Thames.

Content for the RAWP Review to be published, and its recommendations to be accepted on the basis proposed, subject to clearance of the terms of the announcement?

Free

Paul Gray 20 May 1988 MJ2CJL

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