

Mr Wicks

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CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

01-270 0101

From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

Sir Robin Butler KCB CVO

Ref. A088/1806

13 June 1988

Dear Alist,

Review of the National Health Service: Press Articles

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You will have seen Sir Robin Butler's submission of 9 June to Mr Wicks and Mr Wicks's reply of 13 June about the press articles last week on the Government's Review of the National Health Service.

In accordance with the Prime Minister's instructions, could you please make arrangements to ensure that the dates of future meetings on this subject are not made available to the press and are notified only to those within Departments who need to know them. Second, please will you and other recipients warn all officials and special advisers engaged in the Review, and press officers, of the dangers of involving themselves in any sustained conversations with journalists on matters related to the Review, since they may inadvertently enable journalists to try out propositions in order to gauge reactions. It could be pointed out that these instructions are particularly important as the Review enters its later, and most sensitive, stages.

I am copying this letter with a similar request to Geoffrey Podger and Nigel Wicks.

Yours ever,

Timothy Woolley

(T A Woolley)
Private Secretary

A C S Allan Esq
PS/Chancellor of the Exchequer

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