



SECRET

3B

P 03275

PRIME MINISTER

MANAGING THE FAMILY PRACTITIONER SERVICES
[HC51: Note by the Secretary of State for Health.
HC47 also relevant]

1. You began discussion of this paper at the last meeting but did not have enough time to complete it.
2. The main points which you discussed then were:
 - i. merging Family Practitioner Committees (FPCs) with District Health Authorities (DHAs). On this you decided that the possibility of a merger should be mentioned as an option in the White Paper. It would be a 'green' element in the Government's proposals;
 - ii. reducing GP numbers. Rather than adopt the approach suggested in the paper, you said that more thought needed to be given to the present structure of GPs' remuneration and the possibility of changing it so as to encourage a reduction in numbers. You asked Mr Clarke to set this in hand.
3. You may wish to check whether there are any developments to report on either of these issues and then continue with the other points which are still outstanding on Mr Clarke's paper, namely:
 - ✓ i. drugs bills (paragraphs 5 to 10 of the paper);
 - ✓ ii. referral rates (paragraphs 11 to 14);
 - ✓ iii. drug budgets for GP practices which opt to have their own budgets (paragraph 15 iii);
 - iv. strengthening FPCs (paragraphs 25 to 32).

These points are covered in the brief (below) which you have already seen.

ADW.

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