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SECRET



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The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP  
Secretary of State for Health  
Richmond House  
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MBPM

at his stage.

Recd

12 December 1988

13/12

**NHS REVIEW: WHITE PAPER**

Thank you for the copy of your letter of 7 December to Peter Walker about the way in which the territorial departments' interests are to be handled in the White Paper.

I will be unable to be present at the Group's meeting on 16 December because I shall be fulfilling engagements in the Western Isles which I had to cancel at short notice earlier in the year and cannot cancel a second time. My view, however, is that the main part of the White Paper should be drafted with the minimum of complicated cross references to the territorial interests; and that **given the differences between Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the three countries should each have a short chapter devoted to them.**

My officials have already circulated a brief outline of what the Scottish chapter will contain. I shall aim to circulate an expanded version of that outline for the meeting on the 22 December; but clearly it will require further work to take account of the shape of your main text on which work will have been proceeding in parallel.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Nigel Lawson, Peter Walker, Tom King, John Major and David Mellor, to Sir Roy Griffiths, to Professor Griffiths and Mr Whitehead in the No 10 Policy Unit, and to Mr Wilson in the Cabinet Office.

MALCOLM RIFKIND

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