



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

Telephone 01-210 3000

From the Secretary of State for ~~Social Services~~ Health

*cel/p*

CONFIDENTIAL

Paul Gray Esq  
No 10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

*Prime Minister*  
*Contact now 18 January 1989*

*to announce publication  
will be on 31st January?*

*Dear Paul*

*Rec'd 18/1* *Yes not*

NHS REVIEW: DATE OF PUBLICATION OF WHITE PAPER

The Ministerial Group have been aiming towards publishing the White paper on 31 January and the Department has been making preparations to launch the White Paper on that day. These include a very substantial exercise to communicate the content of the White Paper as soon as possible to about 2,000 NHS chairmen, managers and clinicians who will be important opinion formers within the service. The plans include a teleconference on the day and roadshows led by Ministers over the following three days. We have now reached the stage where if the White Paper is to be published on 31 January we need to send invitations this week to those attending the teleconference and roadshows. My Secretary of State would also like to tell Parliament, via letters to the Chairman of the Social Services Committee and Robin Cook, of the expected date in advance of it becoming widely known throughout the service.

Once the letters and invitations have been sent it will be extremely difficult to alter the date but we must advise people sufficiently in advance if the launch is to be a success.

I would be grateful for clearance to issue the letters and invitations for publication on 31 January. The Lord President is content with the Parliamentary arrangements.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Alison Smith (Lord President's Office) to the Private Secretaries of members of the Ministerial Group and to Richard Wilson.

*Jan*

*Andy*

A J MCKEON  
Principal Private  
Secretary