

2 E.R.

→ PA

SECRET 20a-c

I have tried to address all the problems in the various comments scattered throughout these notes & specifically answered in response to your questions. On admin - we need a much more radical approach. Present proposals are not

PRIME MINISTER

NHS REVIEW

If we are to keep to the timetable, it would be very helpful if you could deal with the attached clutch of NHS Review papers this evening, so that we can put the necessary action in hand tomorrow.

Video Message

At Flag A is a note from Bernard with a polished version of the video message that you will be recording on Monday. You will want to consider whether you are content with it, so that we can put it on a teleprompter.

Yes - see slight amendments. not

Central Management of the NHS

You had a first look last night at Ken Clarke's minute at Flag B which he submitted following the discussion at the last Review Group meeting. You had a word about this with Robin Butler this morning; and we have been discussing the issue further with Robin and Richard Wilson during the afternoon.

At Flag C are minutes from Robin Butler and Richard Wilson addressing this problem, to which they attach a draft letter for me to send to the Department of Health recording your comments, both on the detailed drafting of the White Paper and the underlying issues of substance. The proposed revisions to the text are relatively modest but, on the substance, Robin recommends you to raise some fundamental points and commission further work.

The Policy Unit have also been looking at these papers, and Ian Whitehead's minute at Flag D gives his reactions. Ian is much more radical, and recommends you now to put forward a substantially different central management structure, going beyond the possibilities discussed in the Review Group, which would I imagine lead to a clash with Ken Clarke.

You need to consider whether to accept the approach recommended by Robin Butler or that favoured by Ian Whitehead.

Revisions to Chapters 1, 7 and 13

Ken Clarke's further minute at Flag E provides revised drafts of these chapters. The Cabinet Office have not provided a note on these, but think the drafts are now generally on the right lines. Bernard Ingham (Flag F) and Ian Whitehead (Flag G) suggest some minor amendments you will want to consider.

White Paper Title

The papers at Flag E to G also cover the question of the title. Ken Clarke (Flag E) now suggests "The NHS: A Healthy Future". Bernard (Flag F) sees something in this, but prefers "Patients Come First: A Programme Of Reform For the NHS". Ian Whitehead (Flag G) puts forward two further suggestions from Tim Bell, but I gather Ian feels that Bernard's suggestion is probably a better one.

You will want to consider whether to accept Ken Clark's proposal or urge him to accept Bernard's alternative.

Welsh Chapter

Finally, Peter Walker has circulated a revised draft of the "Welsh Chapter" (Flag H). This looks much better, but you will want to see whether you have any further comments.

*I think the word Patients should be in the title. I like Patients First - A healthy future.
Patients first - Programme of reform for the NHS.*

ACTION

- (i) Content with the text for the video message (Flag A)?

See amendments.

(ii) Content with the response recommended by the Cabinet Office on the central management of the NHS (Flag C), or do you prefer the more radical approach of the Policy Unit (Flag D)?

My own preferred approach. Present proposals leave many questions undecided.

(iii) Content to endorse the detailed comments by Bernard (Flag F) and Ian Whitehead (Flag G) on chapters 1-13?

Some - see comments

(iv) For the title, do you prefer "The NHS: A Healthy Future" or "Patients Come First: A Programme Of Reform For The NHS"?

I think the word Patients must be in the title.

(v) Any comments on the Welsh Chapter (Flag H)?

- it reminds us very effectively that the money must move with the patient. Have we made that point clear in the English version?

W. H. B. Barber

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PAUL GRAY
19 January 1989

DS3AFK