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**SECRET**

The Rt Hon John Major MP  
Chief Secretary to the Treasury  
HM Treasury  
Parliament Street  
LONDON  
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NBPM

BACG  
19/1

19 January 1989

*Dear John,*

**NHS REVIEW**

As I mentioned at our discussion on 17 January I have decided that I want to make a firm announcement of my intention to appoint a Chief Executive of the NHS for Scotland. For that purpose I want to amend paragraph 17 in Chapter 10 to read:

"The responsibility for health service policy will continue to rest with the Scottish Home and Health Department, reporting to the Minister for Education and Health and the Secretary of State. However, it is desirable that the management of the Health Service should be strengthened and the Government has decided to appoint a Chief Executive for the NHS in Scotland. The Chief Executive will be responsible for the efficiency and performance of the Health Service and for the overall supervision of the execution of policy. He will have responsibility for the establishment of appropriate and adequate information and data systems required to ensure the effective delivery of patient services."

This would be a new post for which the appropriate nominal level would appear to be Grade 3 and I would propose to retain the existing two Health Grade 3 posts, at least for the period of active implementation of our proposals, and to review the situation in 1990.

I hope you are content with this wording and the proposal. My people will write to yours about the details.

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

*Yours ever,*  
*Malcolm Rifkind*

**MALCOLM RIFKIND**