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PAUL GRAY

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MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NHS IN SCOTLAND

Malcolm Rifkind's carefully crafted response has not answered head-on some of the Prime Minister's questions. My own scepticism was again confirmed by Michael Forsythe who feels that the Scottish Home and Health Department (SHHD) is trying to pull the wool over our eyes. His two main concerns are that (i) the line of command is still unclear and (ii) SHHD's aim is to absorb a new recruit - probably a Government official - into the inner workings of the department.

In the next note to the Scottish Office, the Prime Minister may want to bring out the following points either as comments or questions:

- As in England, we assume that the job description - which sets out the specific powers and responsibilities of the Chief Executive - will be made public by means of a written statement. It would constitute a clear statement of intent and would serve to establish the leadership roles of the Management (and Chief) Executive.

And also, we assume that the Chief Executive will have the task of determining the overall package of remuneration, not just the performance related element. And presumably, he would have a hand in discussing - and then setting - the management objectives of the individual General Managers in advance.

These two points will be crucial to the more effective management of the NHS in Scotland.

*Ian Whitehead*

IAN WHITEHEAD

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*Note  
Agreed in  
Ian Whitehead  
to drop this  
point.  
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