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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

December 7, 1989



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Dr Ken

PRIORITIES IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

Thank you for your letter of 30 November seeking H Committee agreement to the publication on 14 December of a White Paper comprising the Government's response to the Report of the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology on Priorities in Medical Research, published in April 1988.

The Prime Minister has approved the White paper, subject to the inclusion of an additional paragraph in the summary highlighting the Government's financial record and commitment to medical research. John MacGregor, Malcolm Rifkind and John Gummer also wrote in support of the White paper, subject to a number of amendments and additions some of which I understand are being dealt with at official level. No other colleague has commented and you may take it, therefore, that you have H Committee's agreement to publish the White Paper, on 14 December.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to the other members of H and S&T Committees and to Sir Robin Butler.

[Handwritten signature]

GEOFFREY HOWE

Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP
Secretary of State for Health

NAT HEALTH: Expedited R23

