



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister (4)

No need to read. Simply
to be aware that CST
has approached Secretaries
of State for Scotland and
Northern Ireland on size
of their block budgets

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The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP

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From The Secretary of State for Wales

7 March 1984

De Norm

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE REVIEWS

I was interested to read the Chief Secretary's letter of 23 February to you recording agreement between you that three aspects of health spending should be reviewed and suggesting what the scope of each review should be.

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I note that the proposition is that these reviews should be undertaken by DHSS and Treasury officials jointly. There can be no objection to that, but I must ask that my officials should be kept very closely in touch with their work; it would be most tiresome if it proved necessary for me to dissociate myself from the outcome because no proper account had been taken of distinctive Welsh circumstances (Welsh prescribing practice, for example, is materially different from that of England). I take the point about strictly limiting the circulation of papers, but this can be achieved by nominating the officials to receive them. At this end it should be the Principal Finance Officer.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, the Chief Secretary and the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Norm
Norm

The Rt Hon Norman Fowler PC MP
Secretary of State for Social Services

Econ 101: Public Expenditure Pt 27

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