

*Not Health  
Summary*

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*bc Mr. Redwood*

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

3 January 1984

*Dec Ellen*

I wrote to Ken Stowe on 23 December about the meeting on 12 January which will follow up the discussion held on 16 September. He has agreed to prepare, in conjunction with the Treasury, an annotated agenda, selecting the issues which it would be most productive to discuss.

Since then, the Prime Minister has seen the Chief Secretary's letter of 22 December to your Secretary of State. She has expressed concern at the recent growth of expenditure on the Family Practitioner Services; and at the growth of social security expenditure particularly on housing benefit. She would like the question of bringing these areas of expenditure under better control to be put on the agenda for the 12 January meeting. I would be grateful, therefore, if in addition to the long term issues on health and social security the briefing could discuss these current issues and make suggestions on how further work might be pursued.

In particular, the Prime Minister would like the briefing to cover ways in which FPS expenditure could be better forecast and brought under more effective control. In addition, she is interested to know how housing benefit has come to be so widespread, extending substantially up the income scale; what factors have caused such a rapid growth in expenditure on housing benefit; and how current expenditure compares with the forecasts made at the time the new benefit was established.

It would be helpful if briefing could reach this office by the close of play on Friday but if this cannot be done it should arrive no later than Tuesday afternoon.

I am copying this letter to John Gieve (Chief Secretary's Office), Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office) and to Alan Bailey (HM Treasury).

*Your sincerely  
Andrew Turnbull*

Andrew Turnbull

Miss Ellen Roberts,  
Department of Health and Social Security.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 December 1983

Dear Diary Secretary,

On Thursday 12 January there is to be a meeting to discuss health and social security. This is a follow-up meeting to the one held on 16 September.

The meeting will last for approximately two hours and the following have agreed to be present:

Secretary of State for Social Services  
Mr. Clarke  
Mr. Boyson  
Chancellor  
Sir Robert Armstrong  
Mr. Middleton  
Mr. Bailey  
Sir Ken Stowe  
Sir G. Ottens  
Mr. Redwood

Can you please confirm with this office that the Chief Secretary can attend? *- confirmed 29/12*

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Ryder

The Diary Secretary,  
Chief Secretary's Office,  
H.M. Treasury.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 December 1983

As you know, the Prime Minister wishes to follow up the meeting on 16 September at which policies on health and social security were discussed. This is currently scheduled for the afternoon of 12 January for approximately two hours. The guest list will be the same as before.

B/S | We discussed the agenda for the meeting and the documents that would be needed. I confirm that the meeting will cover both health and social security. We agreed that in addition to the progress report contained in your Secretary of State's minute to the Prime Minister of 23 December, you would prepare, in conjunction with the Treasury, an annotated agenda. This would select those topics where discussion would be most productive, define the issues outstanding, and suggest ways forward. In those areas, such as pensions, where action is already in hand, the meeting would simply be invited to take note.

I am copying this letter to Alan Bailey in the Treasury, John Redwood in the Policy Unit, and Richard Hatfield in the Cabinet Office.

ANDREW TURNBULL

Sir Kenneth Stowe, KCB, CVO

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