

MICHAEL DONALD LONGMORE

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TELEPHONE 01-486 4433

Our Ref. DL/SMB

Your Ref.

16 April 1984

Sir Hector Laing
Chairman
United Biscuits
Syon Lane
Isleworth
Middx

Dear *Hector*

If you are to be talking to the Prime Minister during the Easter recess about any medical matters, it would be most helpful if you could suggest to her that there are extremely powerful reasons for her opening the National Heart and Chest Hospitals' CORDA Non-Invasive Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Unit. In addition to all that you already know, perhaps the following points could be made in favour of this use of her precious time:-

- 1) This is an outstanding example of private enterprise and personal effort on behalf of a number of people joining together with the hospital group to provide something important which the NHS cannot afford itself.
- 2) The NMR Research Group funded jointly by the National Heart and Chest Hospitals and CORDA are collaborating intensively to help GEC, the parent company which owns Picker Marketing British Technology in the USA.
- 3) The team we have put together includes Sir Godfrey Hounsfield, whose Nobel prize was for the mathematics which made the first CAT scanning and now NMR imaging possible. Dr Ian Young, of GEC, a brilliant physicist and his group, who have made the machines work. My own team of doctors and scientists, capable of advancing the technology. Behind us are an outstanding group of clinicians from the National Heart and Chest Hospitals. There can be few institutions in the world which could put together high technology, high finance, high ideals and outstanding people in this way. The Prime Minister has visited the Brompton Hospital and will be well aware of the high standards.
- 4) We have a comprehensive achievable research plan which should help to maintain the vital British lead in this complicated subject.

Handed to me by
Sir H. Laing. Pl. file
with papers about
the NMR scanner and
Mr. Longmore.

FEB

4.5.

- 5) The Unit is not aimed at diagnosing end stage disease but at preventive medicine (I am sure the Prime Minister will be aware that large numbers of dentists are now having difficulty making a living because of the effects of fluoride). I hope we can do the same to expensive cardiac surgery.
- 6) NMR will be able to detect impending coronary and stroke at a much earlier stage, essential for monitoring the efficacy of treatments to control the disease process, now on trial.

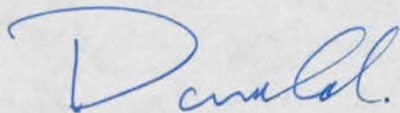
I will of course be available to answer any questions on the telephone to supplement this letter. I am also prepared to submit to whom the Prime Minister might wish, a document which explains the background of the project, how NMR works and the basis of our research plan.

I expect the formal request for her to open the Unit will come from the Board of Governors of the National Heart and Chest Hospitals and the CORDA Charity jointly. I am sure however, that your putting the case personally to the Prime Minister is the best way of explaining the importance of this prestigious project to the country.

I do hope that Mr Dennis Thatcher would also be able to come. I know that he does not like hospital visits. This, however, is a preventive exercise, with no hospital ambience.

All good wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

D Longmore FRCS



Prime Minister

To be aware in case
you get a telephone call from
Lord Weirtock.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522 ext 6981

From the Permanent Secretary

Sir Kenneth Stowe KCB CVO

FEBB

23.3.

F E R Butler Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

22 March, 1984

Dear Sir,

ROYAL MARSDEN HOSPITAL - NMR SCANNER

You should be aware that there may be some protest from GEC that the Royal Marsden Hospital is proposing to buy a new NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance) scanner from Siemens of Germany in preference to one from Picker International, a GEC-owned company, which manufactures these scanners at Wembley.

We have checked with the hospital their reasons for choosing the Siemens scanner. While some of the technical reasons might be challenged, there is no answer to the price differential - £3 million for the Siemens against £1.4 million for the Picker.

Siemens are clearly determined to buy their way into the UK and Picker, who have sold six scanners in this country and are themselves using similar methods to buy their way into prestigious institutions overseas, cannot compete with their terms. This leaves us with nothing to do but grin and bear it, disagreeable though it is.

I am copying this to Brian Hayes and Anthony Acland.

Your man.
Ken.



FILE

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

23 March, 1984

ROYAL MARSDEN HOSPITAL - NMR SCANNER

Many thanks for your letter of 22 March and for warning us about this matter. I will make sure that the Prime Minister knows in case she gets a telephone call from Lord Weinstock.

E. E. R. BUTLER

Sir Kenneth Stowe, KCB CVO

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
1-19 VICTORIA STREET
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Sir Brian Hayes KCB
Joint Permanent Secretary

2 April 1984

F E R Butler Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Robin^{FEB},

ROYAL MARSDEN HOSPITAL - NMR SCANNER

Ken Stowe copied to me his letter of 22 March to you about the Royal Marsden scanner.

The proposed purchase of a Siemens NMR Scanner for the research programme at the Marsden was known to both DTI and DHSS. As far as I can see we have no basis on which to challenge the decision (yet to be finalised) which evidently has been made on a combination of technical and price considerations. In the circumstances the Picker offer regrettably fell short of the user's requirements. I too am satisfied that nothing more can be done.

I am copying this letter to Ken Stowe and Antony Acland.

Yours ever,

BRIAN HAYES

National Health p. 3

NHS Expenditure

3 APR 1984

