



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

30 April 1984

Dear Mr. Clay,

Thank you for your letter of 25 April and also for sending me a copy of the Royal College of Nursing's policy document. Ministers have received the recommendations of the Review Body on Nursing Staff, Midwives, Health Visitors and Professions Allied to Medicine. Ministers will be considering these recommendations shortly and will make known their response in due course. It will not, I regret, be possible to make this known in time for your College's Annual Congress.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Staiter

Trevor Clay, Esq.

Her Majesty the Queen
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother
Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret
Countess of Snowdon



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Royal College of Nursing
of the United Kingdom

TC/JMS/ps

25th April 1984

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1.

Dear Prime Minister,

As you may be aware, next week members of the Royal College of Nursing will gather in Harrogate for the College's Annual Congress. This is the most important membership event of the year and, in its repercussions, is of the greatest significance to the nursing profession in the United Kingdom.

Many major issues will be discussed by the Rcn Representative Body but, the most sensitive will be that of nurses' pay. As matters stand at the moment, the debate will obviously reflect the frustration nurses feel at not being in possession of any information relating to the progress of their pay award for this year which should, in fact, be effective from the first day of this month.

I am sure I do not need to remind you that the Rcn welcomed wholeheartedly the establishment of a formal mechanism for the independent evaluation of nurses' pay. Having prepared a full memorandum of evidence within an extremely constricted timetable and having delivered it on time to the Pay Review Body, the Royal College of Nursing now awaits with keen anticipation the outcome of the recommendations of that body. The demands upon you and your Ministers, particularly at the present time, are certainly recognised, but I would urge upon you the importance of an early response to this first report of the Pay Review Body for Nursing and Midwifery Staff which, I understand, you have received.

I look forward to an early reply.

Yours sincerely,

Trevor Clay

Trevor Clay
General Secretary

For Written Answer on 25 April.

File.

QUESTION: Mr. Frank Field (Birkenhead)

To ask the Prime Minister, if she has received the Review Body Report on Nurses Pay; and if implementation of its recommendations will allow the Government to remain within its cash limits of pay within the National Health Service.

ANSWER:

The Review Body on Nursing Staff, Midwives, Health Visitors and Professions Allied to Medicine has submitted its recommendations. Ministers will be considering them shortly and will announce their decisions in due course.