



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY**

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*From the Permanent Secretary*

Sir Kenneth Stowe KCB CVO

Robin Butler, Esq.,  
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*Dear Robin,*

You will now have received from Steve Godber my Secretary of State's minute responding to the Prime Minister on Griffiths and our senior posts.

You will have noted that the minute is perhaps more emollient than the draft we discussed - that reflects the judgement of the Secretary of State. You should be in no doubt, however, that my sense of outrage at the content and tone of the successive messages from No. 10 remains undiminished. More particularly I must leave no-one with any doubt that if the Prime Minister's judgement is that this Department can be managed over the next 2-3 years with less than the 3 existing Deputy Secretary posts, then I would have to say that I am not prepared to carry that burden.

I am copying this letter to Robert Armstrong to whom it will come as no surprise.

*Yours ever*

*Ken.*