

*file*

*BM*

PRIME MINISTER

DHSS: DEPUTY SECRETARY POSTS

A loose end from your talk with Mr. Fowler this morning is whether you are content, in the light of Mr. Fowler's minute of 26 June, to agree that the three existing Deputy Secretary posts in DHSS which have become vacant should be filled as proposed?

The key figures are in paragraph 7 on page 3 of Mr. Fowler's minute. They show that there are to be two new posts - the Chairman of the NHS Management Board and the Personnel Director - but that these are to be offset by 1 April next year by the saving of one Deputy Secretary post and five Under Secretary posts, making a net reduction of four posts in all.

Are you content on this basis to agree to the appointment of Mr. Graham Hart, on promotion, to fill the post of Deputy Secretary, NHS Management Group and Mr. Brian Rayner, also on promotion, to fill the Deputy Secretary post in charge of Health Practitioners and Health Industries? You have already agreed to the appointment of Mr. France to fill the post in charge of Health and Personal Social Services policy.

E. E. R. BUTLER

29 June 1984