



PRIME MINISTER

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MARRIAGE GUIDANCE FUNDING

Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 29 November considered the case for transferring Ministerial responsibility for marriage guidance work from the Home Secretary to the Secretary of State for Social Services. It suggested that the two might offer you their views, and Norman Fowler has asked me to do this on his behalf.

I do not have strong views one way or the other on the basic question. We are in effect being invited to weigh the case for a minor but logical change in the organisation of Government against the risk that the act might be interpreted as a signal to expect more from Government in the matter of marriage guidance. So far as I am aware, no one outside Government has been pressing us to make such a change. If that is so, it seems to me to be rather pointless to do it.

I am sending copies of this letter to Leon Brittan and Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'K. Clarke', is written in the lower right quadrant of the page.

21 January 1985

KENNETH CLARKE

GOVT MACHINERY: Ministerial Resp: Nov 84



21 JAN 1985

