



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 March, 1985

NHS SUPERVISORY BOARD FOR SCOTLAND

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's letter of 25 January to the Secretary of State for Social Services. While she is content with what is proposed, she has noted that the Health Services Policy Board in Scotland will be made up entirely of Ministers and civil servants. She has suggested that the Secretary of State might consider how to bring in management resources from the private sector.

I am copying this letter to Steve Godber (Department of Health and Social Security), Colin Jones (Welsh Office), Neil Ward (Northern Ireland Office), Richard Broadbent (Chief Secretary's Office) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

ANDREW TURNBULL

Edward Gowans, Esq.,
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cc: D. Williams

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SCOTTISH OFFICE
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cc DW
for urgent advice

The Rt Hon Norman Fowler MP
Secretary of State for Social Services
Department of Health and Social Security
Alexander Fleming House
Elephant and Castle
LONDON
SE1 6BY

25 January 1985

Dear Norman,

NHS SUPERVISORY BOARD

The Griffiths Report did not apply to Scotland but last summer I issued a consultation paper on a programme for developing general management in the NHS in Scotland. The paper outlined as part of the new arrangements the possibility of a Supervisory Board to strengthen the central organisation in dealing with major management issues. I have now considered this proposition in greater detail following responses to the consultation paper.

I have concluded that the best way to take matters forward is to set up what I intend to name a Health Services Policy Board under John MacKay's Chairmanship, as Minister for Health and Social Work in the Scottish Office. The Board will comprise the Chairman of the Scottish Health Board Chairmen (Mr John Gibb), the Chairman of the Scottish Health Services Planning Council (Dr W K Davidson), the Chief Scientist (Professor Pat Forrest), officers of the Scottish Home and Health Department and, as appropriate, the Under Secretary responsible for the Social Work Services Group. It will be underpinned by the Health Services Policy Group, which is chaired by the Secretary of the Scottish Home and Health Department.

The remit of the Health Services Policy Board will cover advice to the Secretary of State on policy decisions required for the Health Service in Scotland and on the efficient management of the Health Service; assessment of the performance of the service in implementing agreed policy; and the identification of management action required to improve performance and increase management efficiency. I shall be making an announcement about this in due course.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Secretaries of State for Wales and Northern Ireland, the Chief Secretary, Treasury and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,
Cunzio