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PRIME MINISTER

RICHMOND YARD

This issue has dragged on for long enough and I do not wish to reopen it.

I would however like you to be aware of the difficulties which my Ministerial team and senior officials work under - difficulties which I regret have been totally ignored by those responsible for thinking about the provision of accommodation.

First, as you know, Alexander Fleming House is not on the division bell. The result is that when there is a running whip, Ministerial meetings have to be transferred to the House of Commons. (I pay tribute to the efforts of the Whip to minimise disturbance but they cannot be expected permanently to carry five Ministers). I enclose a programme of some of the meetings which I myself have had in the House over the last few months - to these should be added the meetings held by my other Ministers.

Second, my Department is probably more in action in the House of Commons than any other Government Department. Yet my Department has no accommodation in Whitehall, the Headquarters is situated furthest from Whitehall, and my headquarters staff are scattered over more than 20 buildings. The result is that Ministers and officials waste a lot of time travelling, especially to and fro from Whitehall and Westminster;

E.P.

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and our decision - making and communications suffer from the central core of the Department being so disjoined from the rest of the core of Government. I regard it frankly as an absurd priority that the Overseas Development Administration which probably has least to do in Westminster is now to be given an office which is closest to the House of Commons.

Third, the area in which we are situated poses particular security difficulties late at night, which obviously most affects the staff of Ministers' private offices. Six staff have been mugged in the past 18 months and there are problems with the recruitment and retention of secretarial and clerical staff.

Fourth, the vast amount of business which I personally transact in the House takes place in a small room on the Cabinet Committee corridor. I have not even the advantage of one of the slightly larger rooms where a conference table could be put.

Frankly, I believe that the way that the allocation of Richmond Yard has been handled without consultation is little short of a disgrace. It adds to the impression of total indifference to our needs and our case.

I do not wish to reopen the decision on Richmond Yard. I have no quarrel with Geoffrey Howe. But I think you personally should be aware of the position and that it should be taken fully into account in the review of the Whitehall estate which you have asked to be conducted by the end of the year. I think also that this Department should be represented on your Ministerial sub-Committee on the allocation of accommodation in inner London. I would also ask that in the

**E.P.**

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presentation of the decision on Richmond Yard mention is made of the fact that the accommodation needs of the DHSS are being given full consideration.

*N.F.*

N. F.

24 October 1986

DEPARTMENTAL MEETINGS HELD IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
FROM MONDAY 7 APRIL TO FRIDAY 25 JULY

TUESDAY 8 APRIL

4.30 pm	Primary Care 3 Officials	Rm 20
5.00 pm	Residential Accommodation 4 Officials	Rm 20
5.30 pm	Riverside HA 3 Officials	Rm 20

WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL

3.00 pm	NHS Pay 1 Minister, 2 Perm Secs, 2 Officials	Rm 20
4.00 pm	Dietary Survey of Schoolchildren 1 Minister + 5 Officials	Rm 20
4.30 pm	Briefing 1 Minister + 4 Officials	Rm 20
5.30 pm	NHS Residential Accommodation 2 Perm Secs + 2 Officials	SMCR
6.15 pm	RHA Chairmens Appointments 1 Minister + 2 Perm Secs	Rm 20

MONDAY 14 APRIL

6.15	Primary Care 3 Officials	Rm 20
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THURSDAY 17 APRIL

4.15 pm	Briefing 1 Minister + 4 Officials	Rm 20
4.30 pm	Dennis Walters, R Sims, V Bottomley 1 Minister + 3 Officials	Rm 20

## MONDAY 21 APRIL

5.30 pm	Briefing 1 Minister + 5 Officials	Rm 20
followed by	Meeting TUC	Cttee Rm 5

## WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL

9.00 am	Briefing (Chief Sec - PPRS) 1 Minister + 3 Officials	Rm 20
10.45 am	Dennis Walters 1 Perm Sec + 3 Officials	Rm 20
3.30 pm	1 Minister + 4 Officials	Rm 20
4.00 pm	Pensioners Voice Outside Organisation	SMCR

## THURSDAY 24 APRIL

9.00 am	Dennis Walters Briefing 1 Minister, 1 Perm Sec, 2 Officials	Rm 20
2.45 pm	Briefing - Sir K Joseph 2 Ministers + 5 Officials	Rm 20
4.30 pm	GM's Pay 1 Minister, 2 Perm Secs, 1 Official	Rm 20
5.30 pm	Regional Chairmen 1 Minister, 2 Perm Secs	Rm 20
6.00 pm	Sir K Joseph 1 Minister, 4 Officials	Rm 20
6.30 pm	Residential Accommodation 1 Minister + 2 Officials	Rm 20

## THURSDAY 8 MAY

3.00 pm	NHS Residential Accommodation 1 Perm Sec + 3 Officials	Rm 20
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## TUESDAY 10 MAY

2.45 pm	Review Bodies Briefing (Mtg No 10) 1 Minister, 1 Perm Sec + 2 Officials	Rm 20
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WEDNESDAY 14 MAY

6.00 pm Meeting FDA (Union) Rm 20

FRIDAY 16 MAY

9.30 am SocSec Bill Briefing  
3 Ministers + 3 Officials Rm 20

10.30 am Briefing (for meeting with Chief Sec)  
3 Officials Rm 20

TUESDAY 20 MAY

11.00 am Review Bodies Briefing  
2 Perm Secs + 3 Officials Rm 20

1.30 pm Mr True  
1 Official Rm 20

3.00 pm GM's Pay  
2 Perm Secs + 2 Officials Rm 20

WEDNESDAY 21 MAY

5.20 pm Briefing  
2 Ministers and 4 Officials Rm 20

6.00 pm Advisory Group on Pensions  
2 Ministers, 4 Officials  
+ 4 Outside Consultants SMCR

7.30 pm London Presentation  
1 Minister, 2 Perm Secs, 5 Officials SMCR

THURSDAY 22 MAY

9.30 am Briefing (Review Bodies)  
1 Minister, 3 Perm Secs  
+ 3 Officials Rm 20

12 noon Briefing (BMA + BDA)  
2 Perm Secs + 5 Officials Rm 20

WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE

5.15 pm Students and Boarders  
1 Minister + 3 Officials Rm 20

5.40 pm Briefing  
1 Official Rm 20

5.45 pm Women's National Commission  
1 Minister + 2 Officials SMCR

THURSDAY 5 JUNE

12 noon	Primary Care 1 Minister + 4 Officials	Rm 20
2.15 pm	Pay 1 Minister, 1 Perm Sec, 2 Officials	Rm 20
3.15 pm	NHS Seminar Brief 3 Officials	Rm 20
4.00 pm	Briefing (Lord Young) 2 Ministers + 4 Officials	Rm 20

THURSDAY 12 JUNE

3.15 pm	Briefing 1 Minister + 2 Officials	
4.00 pm	Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries 1 Minister, 2 Officials + several Outside Organisation Representatives	LMCR
5.45 pm	Community Charge 2 Ministers + 6 Officials	Rm 20

MONDAY 16 JUNE

2.30 pm	Single Payments 1 Minister + 6 Officials	Rm 20
4.30 pm	ACARD Brief 1 Official	Rm 20
4.45 pm	NEXT 1 Minister + 3 Officials	Rm 20
6.15 pm	Community Charge 2 Officials + 2 Ministers	Rm 20

TUESDAY 17 JUNE

2.30 pm	FPC Chairmen 1 Minister + 3 Officials	Rm 20
3.00 pm	NHS Leaflet 2 Officials	Rm 20
3.30 pm	Students 2 Ministers + 3 Officials	Rm 20
4.30 pm	NEXT 2 Ministers + 3 Officials	Rm 20

WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE

5.45 pm	Briefing 2 Officials	Rm 20
6.00 pm	Sir P Baldwin	Rm 20

THURSDAY 19 JUNE

2.45 pm	Sheep Meat 4 Officials	Rm 20
3.30 pm	Briefing 1 Minister + 4 Officials	Rm 20
4.00 pm	Esther Rantzen - Childwatch 1 Minister + 3 Officials	LMCR
5.00 pm	ICA Briefing 1 Minister + 4 Officials	Rm 20

FRIDAY 20 JUNE

9.30 am	Environmental Health Problems 4 Officials	Rm 20
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WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE

2.30 pm	Briefing 1 Minister + 3 Officials	Rm 20
3.00 pm	RCN - Trevor Clay 1 Minister + 2 Officials	Rm 20
4.30 pm	Channel 4 News 7 Officials	Rm 20

FRIDAY 27 JUNE

10.30 am	Briefing - TV AM 6 Officials	Rm 20
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TUESDAY 1 JULY

3.30 pm	Primary Care 2 Ministers + 2 Officials	Rm 20
5.15 pm	McColl 2 Ministers, 1 Perm Sec + 2 Officials	Rm 20



WEDNESDAY 2 JULY

9.30 am	Social Fund 2 Ministers + 7 Officials	LMCR
3.00 pm	NHS Presentation 3 Officials	Rm 20
3.45 pm	Waiting Lists 1 Perm Sec, 2 Officials	Rm 20
4.30 pm	Briefing 5 Officials	Rm 20
5.00 pm	Advisory Group of Pensions 2 Ministers + 5 Officials	SMCR

FRIDAY 4 JULY

11.30 am	NHS Presentation 4 Officials	Rm 20
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WEDNESDAY 9 JULY

11.15 am	NHS Presentation 1 Minister + 5 Officials	Rm 20
5.30 pm	Primary Health Care 3 Ministers + 8 Officials	SMCR

THURSDAY 10 JULY

9.30 am	Social Fund 2 Ministers + 10 Officials	LMCR
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THURSDAY 17 JULY

2.45 pm	Primary Care 3 Ministers + 5 Officials	LMCR
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MONDAY 21 JULY

6.00 pm	Social Security Bill 3 Ministers + 5 Officials	Rm 20
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TUESDAY 22 JULY

4.00 pm	Briefing 3 Officials + 1 Perm Sec	Rm 20
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THURSDAY 24 JULY

4.30 pm	Briefing 2 Ministers + 5 Officials	Rm 20
5.00 pm	Advisry Group on Pensions 2 Ministers, 5 Officials + 5 Outside Consultants	SMCR