



## 10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

27 October 1986

*Dear Tony,*

RICHMOND YARD

The Prime Minister has now studied with great care your Secretary of State's minute of 24 October which records his great concern about the treatment of DHSS regarding their accommodation. She has asked that I should make clear to the Head of the Civil Service the following:

- (i) he should take DHSS's position fully into account in the review of the Whitehall estate underway;
- (ii) DHSS should be represented on the new Ministerial sub-committee on accommodation;
- (iii) the Department should also be represented on the Official Committee which supports the Ministerial sub-committee;
- (iv) on the Secretary of State's point about presentation of the decision on Richmond Yard, there will, so the Prime Minister understands, be no "presentation" of the decision as such. But the Prime Minister would want it to be made clear in any public statements about Whitehall accommodation that the needs of DHSS are being given full consideration.

The Prime Minister has also noted your Secretary of State's point that he has to transact a vast amount of business in a small room on the Cabinet Committee corridor in the House of Commons. Your Secretary of State will be more aware than I of the difficulty of getting a slightly larger room, but I will see what can be done.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Nigel Wicks*

N. L. Wicks

Tony Laurance, Esq.,  
Department of Health and Social Security.