

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

(2)

To note.

Not Health

MR. SCHOLAR

MUS 15/4

cc: Mr. Hoskyns

DDRB REPORT

I have now had a look at the latest Report of the Review Body on doctors and dentists, which came in over Easter. Like the AFPRB Report, it contains many helpful elements, and in particular frequent references to the satisfactory recruitment and retention position - as, for instance, in paragraphs 20 and 68; and in general rather little is made of direct comparisons. The DDRB even comes clean about their miscalculation last year which resulted in an underestimate of the amount that should be paid for doctors' and dentists' pensions. And the opening paragraphs make it clear that this latest Report is an entirely independent judgement.

But the actual recommendations are, as we expected, unhelpful. The estimated addition to the pay bill is 6 per cent over the levels recommended in their last Report, and those levels were of course cut back by 3 per cent, so that the average increase in earnings now recommended is some 9 per cent. However, the presentation of the figures is, no doubt deliberately, put in terms of recommended additions to their last Report, so that GPs would get an extra 5.52 per cent, dentists an extra 5.50 per cent, and hospital training grades rather more; last year's 3 per cent loss is not re-asserted in each case. This will naturally encourage Ministers to ask whether the right way to treat these recommendations is to say that bygones are bygones, the 3 per cent is gone for ever, and the Report really justifies only an extra 6 per cent. Whether or not even that much can be accepted depends on all the other developments in public service pay over the next two weeks, and it will of course have a direct impact on pay negotiations elsewhere in the NHS. As with the other Review Body Reports, I recommend that this be considered by Ministers at the same time as, or after, the recommendation of the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal.

J.V.

14 April 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

(1)



They are recommending
a 6% increase over and
above the 3% they didn't
get last year.

OFFICE OF MANPOWER ECONOMICS

22 KINGSWAY
LONDON WC2B 6JY

Telephone 01-405 5944

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Content for me to circulate to

a limited list as we have with TSRB?

Mus 8/4

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1A

8 April 1982

Yes
mk

Dear Prime Minister,

REVIEW BODY ON DOCTORS' AND DENTISTS' REMUNERATION : TWELFTH REPORT

I enclose the Twelfth Report of the Review Body on Doctors' and
Dentists' Remuneration, which recommends the rates of pay we judge
appropriate at 1 April 1982.

Yours sincerely
Robert Clark

ROBERT CLARK, CHAIRMAN
REVIEW BODY ON DOCTORS'
AND DENTISTS' REMUNERATION

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File DS
Nat Health

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 April 1982

Doctors' and Dentists' Pay Review Body

I enclose two copies of the Review Body's latest Report. I should be grateful if you, and those to whom I am copying this letter, would ensure that no further copies of the Report are made at this stage, and that for the time being the Report is shown to no-one except the copy addressees of this letter and their Ministers.

When we receive Press enquiries as to whether this Report has been received by the Prime Minister, we intend to confirm its receipt, and to say that, as in the past, its contents will not be disclosed until the Government has reached a decision on these matters.

I am copying this letter to John Kerr (HM Treasury), Barnaby Shaw (Department of Employment) and David Wright (Cabinet Office). Copies are also going to Peter le Cheminant (HM Treasury) and Peter Gregson (Cabinet Office).

MICHAEL SCHOLAR

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David Clark, Esq.,
Department of Health and Social Security.