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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

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From the Secretary of State for Social Services

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP Secretary of State for Transport

9/30

You copied to me your letter of 16 July to Patrick Jenkin about the suggested revisions to the compensation arrangements for the compulsory purchase of land.

In the NHS compulsory purchase orders are few and far between. I understand that we have one case under consideration at present but prior to that the last case was in 1978. The additional costs of the suggested changes will therefore be negligible as far as the NHS is concerned. I also confirm compulsory purchase orders for local authority social services functions but again these are not numerous and the amount of increase in costs would be negligible.

In general we take the view that any changes which will reduce the opposition and delay now associated with compulsory purchase orders will be welcome.

A copy of this letter goes to recipients of yours.

NORMAN FOWLER

