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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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From the Secretary of State for Social Services

Mark Addison Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

25 November 1985

Dear Mark

THE HEALTH SERVICE IN ENGLAND: ANNUAL REPORT 1985

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I enclose three copies of this Report which is the second in a series of annual reports on the health service launched last year. The Report is being published today at 3.30 pm and I enclose also a copy of our accompanying press release. Copies of the Report are being made available from the Vote Office.

I am copying this letter and enclosures to Private Secretaries to members of the Cabinet, the Attorney General and the Lord Advocate.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Mothersill
Private Secretary

**PRESS
RELEASE**

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25 November 1985

A MODERN HEALTH SERVICE SERVING THE PUBLIC

Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, today (Monday) announced publication of 'The Health Service in England; the NHS Annual Report 1985.

In his introduction to the Report, Mr Fowler said: "Last year I published the first in a new series of annual reports on the Health Service in England. It is right for the Government to give the public a full account of the performance of the largest of our public services - a service which we are determined to develop and improve.

"This latest Report shows that there have been further considerable improvements in services to patients. In 1984 the health service provided for 37 million hospital out-patient attendances, well over 6 million in-patient cases, and over 900,000 day cases. All these figures were new records, and they are a tribute to the dedicated work of the staff of the health service. They are made possible by the increased resources being provided by the public and the greater efficiency with which those resources are now being used for the benefit of patients.

"The record of the health service over the last few years is an impressive one, but equally clearly the service will face new challenges over the next years. Medical and technical advance will continue and the numbers of very elderly people will grow as life expectancy improves further. In meeting those challenges - which are the results not of failure but of success - everyone in the health service must be ready to work together in making necessary changes and adapting to new methods and new ideas, in order to secure better services for patients.

"To support these services, new facilities are being put in place throughout the country in a major programme of capital investment. Since 1979 24 major hospital schemes have been started and built in England, and over 30 more are planned to start over the next three years. In total, over 150 schemes worth over £2 million each are currently being planned, designed or built. It is vitally important that we should use all the resources at our disposal to build modern hospitals and wards and replace some of the old buildings which have served their time.

"The Government's aim is to create a modern health service serving the public to maximum effect. This report records substantial progress towards that goal."

NOTE TO EDITORS

'The Health Service in England 1985: Annual Report, London HMSO £6.20