



Ref. A086/1428

MR WICKS

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*File with DM.*

Your minute of 21 March records my discussion with the Prime Minister that morning about the involvement of Mr David Mellor MP, Parliamentary (not Permanent) Under Secretary of State, Home Office, in the DHSS's dealings with Intermed.-

2. You suggested that I should consider whether guidance needed to be given to Departments about the circumstances in which it was, and was not, appropriate for officials outside Private Offices to talk directly to Ministers and Members of Parliament on such sensitive constituency issues. I now understand from the DHSS that the officer who spoke to Mr Mellor on 9 January was the Private Secretary to a DHSS Minister. I have therefore concluded that this particular case does not suggest that fresh guidance is needed on the subject, and, if you agree, I do not propose to issue any.

*RA*

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

12 May 1986

~~122~~ NHS: Exp. + Efficiency PLS .



COMMISSIONER

dg288g



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Thank you for your minute of 12 May about the involvement of Mr. David Mellor MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Home Office, in the DHSS's dealings with Intermed.

I agree that in the circumstances you describe, it is not necessary to issue fresh guidance about the circumstances in which it was appropriate for officials outside Private Offices to talk directly to Ministers and Members of Parliament on sensitive constituency issues.

N. L. Wicks

12 May 1986