

SECRET AND PERSONAL



Not To
BE SENT

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

25 September 1986

Dear Tony,

MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

The Prime Minister had a 45-minute discussion with Sir Roy Griffiths this afternoon at which your Secretary of State was present for the last 30 minutes.

The Prime Minister said that both the Secretary of State and herself needed Sir Roy's help in improving the management of the National Health Service. Despite the enormous progress made in recent years, there was still much to be done, for example, the public's perception of the Service's achievements and to tackle such problems as waiting lists. Sir Roy's experience in business and his knowledge of the Health Service would be invaluable in helping the Secretary of State to carry forward his programme of reform. This was the background to the Secretary of State's proposal to appoint Sir Roy as a special adviser. Though Sir Roy would not have executive responsibility, he would, in such a post, have great scope to influence the future of the Service. He would, of course, have direct access to her.

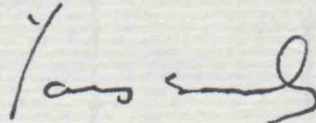
Sir Roy said that he believed that great progress had been made with the NHS over the last few years. On his contribution, if his role was to be advisory, he needed to be seen to have authority if his advice was to carry weight. He therefore wondered whether he could not be the special adviser to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State. The Prime Minister replied that this needed to be discussed with your Secretary of State.

Your Secretary of State then joined the discussion. He suggested that Sir Roy should be regarded as his special adviser but with direct access to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister agreed on the basis that it would need to be made clear in the public announcement that Sir Roy would have direct access to her.

The discussion then turned to the appointment of the Chief Executive of the National Health Service Management Board (NHSMB) and after some discussion it was agreed that Mr. Peach should be appointed to that post.

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It was further agreed that your Secretary of State should announce the Minister of Health's assumption of the Chairmanship of the NHSMB, Sir Roy Griffiths' role, and Mr. Peach's new position early next week. He would provide the Prime Minister with a draft of the announcement for her weekend box.



Nigel Wicks

(N. L. WICKS)

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



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

26 September 1986

MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

I attach to this letter my record of yesterday's discussion with Sir Roy Griffiths. The discussion has since been overtaken by other events, but I nevertheless send this letter for the record. I hasten to add that it was dictated before I knew of the later difficulties!

~~CF~~
I decided in the end not to send these letters. But I put a file for future reference

N. L. Wicks

NLU
29.9.

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