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60 Herne Hill
London SE24 9QP
Tel: 01-274 6061

31: 3: 88

The Prime Minister
10, Downing St
London SW1A 2AA.

(574)

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

It was an honour and a pleasure
to be invited to Cheyres last weekend.
Thank you very much for the excellent
hospitality

Thank you also for listening so carefully
to the many views expressed about the
Health Service. I am a passionate supporter
of the service but recognise its failings.

In international terms it delivers health
care efficiently and yet it is undoubtedly
inefficient. Again by international comparisons
it is cheap and yet the considerably extra
sums your government has spent have not

2

produced the improvements that might have been expected. Overall it provides good health care but I fear that many of our customers are not looked after as they should be. It has low overall administrative costs but is overburdened by administration especially at the QITA, RITA and at the centre. Many people work very hard but often not as effectively as they might and restrictive practices are apparent in all groups.

The most urgent need, in my view, is to introduce more choice to obtain efficiency by competition. The progressive extension of our 'internal market' within the NHS with controlled expansion of the private sector is an attractive proposition.

Thank you again for your kindness.

Yours sincerely

Lord Chancellor

C. CHANTLER.