

CONFIDENTIAL



MS 2 CVI
erba

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

5 October 1988

STOCKTAKING REVIEW OF THE HEALTH SERVICE IN SCOTLAND

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's letter of 3 October to the Secretary of State for Health, in which he sets out his proposal to publish a booklet on the Health Service in Scotland later this week.

The Prime Minister is concerned about the proposed timing of this publication. She considers that publication should be held back until the NHS review discussions are further advanced.

I am copying this letter to Stephen Williams (Welsh Office), Mike Maxwell (Northern Ireland Office), Geoffrey Podger (Department of Health), Carys Evans (Chief Secretary's Office) and to Trevor Woolley and Richard Wilson (Cabinet Office).

Paul Gray


Mrs Margaret Jones
Scottish Office

CONFIDENTIAL

Am

PRIME MINISTER

PROPOSED SCOTTISH PUBLICATION ON THE HEALTH SERVICE

Malcolm Rifkind's letter of 3 October attached proposes the publication later this week of a stocktaking review of the Health Service in Scotland. 

The draft is mostly backward looking, but there are some forward looking passages, e.g., at Flag A. In any event, it strikes me as very odd at this point in time - perhaps particularly in the light of this afternoon's NHS discussion - for one of the Health Departments to publish any such document.

Would you prefer that the Scottish Office should hold this back at least until we are clear on the NHS review?

REC

PG

4 October, 1988.

Y
to
ms