

CC file

325-13

SECRET

P03264

From: R T J Wilson
9 November 1988

MR. GRAY

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE REVIEW

Has

1. I attach a letter from the Department of Health about the interpretation of a small point of detail in the minutes of the meeting of the NHS Group on 17 October.

2. The issue is whether the Chief Executive of a self-governing hospital should have a say in the appointment of other executives to the board of the hospital. My notes show that this issue was not actually addressed. All that happened was that Mr Walker raised the question whether it was right, as Mr Clarke's paper proposed, for the executive members of the board of a self-governing hospital to be appointed by the whole board. He suggested that it should only be the non-executive members. Mr Clarke agreed immediately, commenting "it must be by the non-executives".

3. If you agree, I propose to reply that I would have no objection to the Department interpreting the minutes in the way they suggest, provided that their Secretary of State is content. This does not seem to me to be a matter of great controversy, nor one which was discussed at length, and I would think that it might reasonably be left to the Secretary of State to settle on the advice of his officials.

RJW.

R T J WILSON

Mr. Linton

Thank you. I agree entirely.

RJW

15/11