



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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From the Secretary of State for ~~Social Services~~ Health

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cc John
✓ Whitehead

SECRET

The Rt Hon Peter Walker MBE MP
Secretary of State for Wales
Welsh Office
Gwydyr House
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2ER

MBM

AC 16/8/88

7 December 1988

Dear Peter,

NHS REVIEW: WHITE PAPER

*- meeting record
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As agreed at the Ministerial Group's meeting on 24 November, I am now working to prepare a first draft of our White Paper for discussion by the Group, in part on 16 December and as a whole on 22 December.

In preparing this draft we are finding it difficult to judge how best to deal with the circumstances and interests of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. I suggest we might aim to discuss this issue when we meet on 16 December. In the meantime, I am drafting primarily in terms appropriate to England, and have asked my officials to keep in touch with yours as the drafting progresses.

You, Malcolm Rifkind and Tom King are no doubt giving some thought to what the White Paper may need to say specifically about the circumstances of your countries. If we are to keep to our timetable it will be important for the product of this work to be included in the draft to be considered on 22 December.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Nigel Lawson, Malcolm Rifkind, Tom King, John Major and David Mellor, to Sir Roy Griffiths, to Professor Griffiths and Mr Whitehead in the No 10 Policy Unit, and to Mr Wilson in the Cabinet Office.

KENNETH CLARKE



NHS: Efficiency & Expenditure P16