

PRIME MINISTER

NHS

I attach the papers for the NHS meeting on 5 January which you will want to look at over the Christmas break. The papers are divided into 3 folders. The first contains Richard Wilson's steering brief prepared for Thursday's cancelled meeting but still worth a read since it sets out the order in which to tackle the issues. The other 2 folders follow the order suggested by Richard.

The third folder contains the chapters by the Territorial Ministers. Of these, Wales is the tricky one which goes off in its own direction on a number of issues. You will want to consider whether to tackle each of these individually as Richard Wilson suggests or to tackle Mr. Walker's whole approach head-on as the Policy Unit suggests. The other missing part of the White Paper is the Treasury contribution to chapter 10 on fiscal incentives. This is being prepared in time for the 5 January meeting.

You commented on Paul's timetable note that you saw last night that the White Paper should be better by 5 January meeting. Treasury Ministers have commented on the draft. (Their comments are in folder 2).

Do you wish to annotate the White Paper on the basis that we can minute out during the Christmas break? or are you content for your comments to be given at the 5 January meeting?

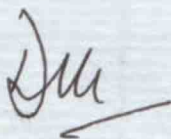
DOMINIC MORRIS

23 DECEMBER 1988

MRMABY

SECRET

*The main white paper is very poor in ~~the~~ the Foreword & Chapter 3. The Scotland Paper is much better on setting out clearly the general strategy in its opening chapter*




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Wentworth base