

PRIME MINISTER

FOREWORD TO NHS WHITE PAPER

The D/Health would like you to contribute a short foreword to the NHS Review White Paper.

They have sent out the attached draft which seems to Paul Gray and me to be something to which you could put your name. It strikes the right notes on:

- 1) the NHS's performance
- 2) the increased resources devoted to it
- 3) the task ahead based on the founding principles
- 4) the primacy of the patient
- 5) the responsibility of the staff of the NHS for implementing the biggest reforms in the NHS's 40-year history.

The "largely" in brackets in the last line of Para 2 is necessary. I think the last sentence could be improved by using, as indicated in manuscript, the words "the millions who rely on it".

If you feel able to sign the attached, would you also agree to set aside a few minutes at any time before January 23 to repeat these words for a video recording which would be used at each of the presentations after publication?

We need to make a success of these presentations and a message from you on video would greatly help.

Agree:

- 1) attached foreword? *Yes*
- 2) to record video? *Yes*

1100-1215

Monday 23 January
(inc. make up)

[Signature]
BERNARD INGHAM
16 January 1989

NHS WHITE PAPER DRAFT FOREWORD

At its best, Britain's Health Service is without equal. Time and again, we have all seen just how much we owe to those who work in it. A skilled and dedicated staff - backed by massively increased resources - have coped superbly with the growing demands of modern medicine. There is a great deal of which they, and we, can rightly feel proud.

Our task now is to bring all parts of the Health Service up to the very high standard of the best while standing by the principles on which it was founded. The NHS will continue as now to be available to all, regardless of income, free at the point of delivery and {LARGELY} funded out of general taxation.

All the proposals in this White Paper have as their aim a Health Service that puts patients first. We believe that an NHS that is run better will be an NHS that can care better. Taken together, they represent the most far-reaching reform of the NHS in its forty year history. They offer new opportunities, and pose new challenges, for everyone concerned with the running of the service. I am confident that those who serve the NHS will want to seize those opportunities and meet those challenges on behalf of ~~those who use it~~. *The millions who rely on it.*