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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

23 May 1989

Dear Mr. Clay,

Thank you for your letter of 15 May enclosing one which you had sent to Kenneth Clarke about nursing membership of the Policy Board. As you will know, Kenneth announced the membership of the Policy Board and Management Executive on 22 May. I have also seen a copy of his full reply to your recent letter and there is nothing which I would want to add to what he has already said.

Yours sincerely

Narasimhaiah

Trevor Clay, Esq.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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From the Secretary of State for ~~Social Services~~ ^{Health}

Trevor Clay MPhil RGN RMN FRCN
General Secretary
Royal College of Nursing
20 Cavendish Square
LONDON
W1M 0AB

22 May 1989

Dear Trevor,

Thank you for your letter of 15 May about nursing membership of the Policy Board.

The membership of the Policy Board is not intended to be representative of health service interests but to bring together a group of people who can provide, from their own wide ranging experience, a variety of individual contributions to the Board's role of determining the strategy of the NHS. There will of course be an essential nursing contribution to the management of the NHS. But, as you will have seen from my announcement today of the membership of the Policy Board and Management Executive, I believe the right and most effective place for it will be through the Management Executive. The Management Executive will of course also be an important source of advice to the Policy Board.

The Nursing Officers within my Department will continue to play a full role, at the highest and all other levels, in advising on policy formulation and management issues, as they do at present. This reflects the Government's recognition of the essential role that nurses play in the health service.

Our proposals for the reform of the NHS build on the excellent tradition of caring for which the health service and in particular its nurses have such a justifiably high reputation. Indeed, our reforms are intended to enable those who care for patients to have a bigger say in the way resources are used and services are delivered as well as to ensure that those resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible for the benefit of patients.

KENNETH CLARKE

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