



MR GRAY

cc Sir Robin Butler
Mr Monger

MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NHS IN SCOTLAND

1. You asked for comments on Mr Rifkind's minute of 31 May.
2. Mr Rifkind's proposals sound broadly similar to those for England apart from the decision not to have a Policy Board. But I agree with Mr Monger (minute attached) that there is a certain vagueness on key points. It might be as well to ask for a little more detail.
3. The Prime Minister may therefore wish to enquire what arrangements will be made to ensure that Mr Rifkind's Department does not become involved in day-to-day management of the NHS in Scotland. Avoiding a majority of departmental officials on the Management Executive could be important in this context. She may also want to express interest in how far the Secretary of State proposes to delegate to the Chief Executive the power and authority to manage operational matters effectively, for instance by giving him a written statement of his responsibilities and the ability to make his own staff appointments subject only to clearance in the most senior cases. She may wish to ask for a further report when the views of the new Chief Executive are known after the initial three-month period of transition.
4. This is only a selection of points. As Mr Monger's minute demonstrates, there is a lot more that could be asked.

R.T.W.

R T J WILSON

7 June 1989