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*12*

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

*MBM*

15 September 1989

*ALC*  
*18/9*

*Dear Geoffrey,*

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE BILL

*WILL REQUEST IF REQUIRED*

I have seen Kenneth Clarke's letter to you of ~~12~~ September about the importance of getting the NHS bill onto the statute book as soon as possible.

I consider that to get the Bill through by Easter (April 1990) we should need to receive the Bill for its introduction in the House of Lords by Thursday 25 January and to get it through by Whitsun (May 1990) we should need to receive it by Thursday 1 March. At this stage, both these dates are estimates but they represent the latest, rather than earliest, dates for the Bill's arrival in the House of Lords. The estimated dates are also based on the assumption that we will have no additional obligations placed on the programme in the Lords.

I am copying this letter to Kenneth Clarke and the recipients of his letter.

*Yours sincerely*  
*DL*

BELSTEAD

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP