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Northern Ireland Office  
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06 11 89  
cc PS/S/S (D+C)

The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP  
Secretary of State for Health  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2NS

PS/hnd Skalmesdale (B+C)  
Mr Elliott  
Mr G McCannell

7 November 1989

NBpm

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and list on letters

Dear Ken,

THE NEW GP CONTRACT - INFORMING THE PUBLIC

Thank you for the copy of your letter of 27 October to Norman Lamont and for the opportunity to comment on the public information campaign material. I fully support your approach and am generally content with both the content and presentation of the advertisement and leaflet.

Here in Northern Ireland we propose to carry out a similar campaign. However because of legislative differences it will probably be mid-December before we are in a position to bring into operation the provisions making it easier for patients to change doctors. As the national press is widely read in the Province it would be helpful if your advertisement could make it clear that the operative date of this particular change relates only to England and Wales. Our officials have already discussed this matter and I understand that the draft advertisement will be amended to cover this point.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Malcolm Rifkind, Peter Walker, Norman Lamont and <sup>to</sup> Sir Robin Butler.

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Pm  
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