

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH SIR ROY GRIFFITHS

You are meeting Sir Roy Griffiths at 1700 on Tuesday 31 July. The meeting was arranged because Sir Roy had expressed disappointment:

- a. that he had not been involved in the decision on delaying the transfer of community care responsibility to local authorities; or
- b. in the internal review of the introduction of the NHS reforms.

Sir Roy is Deputy Chairman of the NHS Management Board and the Government's Adviser on NHS Management. As such he has direct access to you.

I understand Kenneth Clarke has spoken to Sir Roy recently. At the meeting, Sir Roy made clear he felt his involvement with the Government on health and community care services was coming to a natural end. (Sir Roy has been active in the Department of Health for nearly eight years: he introduced general management; reviewed community care policy; and was a contributor to the NHS reforms.) Sir Roy hinted strongly to Kenneth Clarke that he would now like to bow out.

Against that background, your discussion with Sir Roy might focus on two issues:

- whether, and if so when, Sir Roy might move on:
- what further work he might undertake before he leaves.

Whether and When

It is important that any break should not take place immediately. If Sir Roy were to leave in the next two or three months, that might be attributed, by hostile commentators, to concerns about

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the delay on community care or the introduction of the NHS reforms. Possible departure dates include end December and April of next year.

More generally, you might like to raise with Sir Roy your concerns about the implementation of the NHS reforms in London. His views on whether the reforms can go ahead in the capital without undue disruption to patient services may well be instructive.

You might then also suggest that, in the next few weeks, it would be particularly helpful to have his contribution to measures that will ensure a satisfactory launch of the NHS reforms.

BHP

Barry H. Potter

27 July 1990

c: Griffiths (MJ)

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