

Prime Minister ①

Agree to this proposal?

Yes ~~no~~ MS 27/7

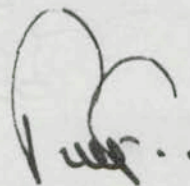
PRIME MINISTER

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRIVATE HEALTH SECTOR

I have been approached by Arnold Elton, the Chairman of the Conservative Medical Society, who is very anxious to carry out some work on the development of the private health system. In particular, he would like to explore ways in which there can be better co-operation between the private sector and the National Health Service. One example of this would be that a Regional Health Chairman might decide to contract for a certain number of beds in a private hospital rather than investing in a new public hospital.

I think that this is all very useful work for us to do and I would propose to ask Arnold Elton to chair a small working party on this. It would simply be a working group reporting direct to me and I would discuss with him the names of a few people who could help. Arnold Elton is extremely anxious to do this work and is important to us as the Chairman of the Conservative Medical Society. I also think it would be of great value for the development ^{of} policy that such a study should take place.

I am copying this to Secretaries of State for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and the Paymaster General.



NF

26 July 1982

DSG
bc JV



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 July 1982

Dear David,

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRIVATE HEALTH SECTOR

Your Secretary of State minuted the Prime Minister on 26 July, proposing that he should ask the Chairman of the Conservative Medical Society to chair a small working party on the development of the private health system.

The Prime Minister agrees to this proposal.

I am sending copies of this letter to Adam Peat (Welsh Office), Muir Russell (Scottish Office), Stephen Boys-Smith (Northern Ireland Office), Keith Long (Paymaster General's Office) and to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

Michael Scholar
—

David Clark, Esq.,
Department of Health and Social Security.

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SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

(2)

Prime Minister

The Rt Hon Norman Fowler MP
Secretary of State for Social Services
Department of Health and Social Security
Alexander Fleming House
Elephant and Castle
LONDON
SE1 6BY

MUS 30/7

29 July 1982

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRIVATE HEALTH SECTOR

You sent to me a copy of your minute to the Prime Minister of 26 July about a proposal that Arnold Elton should chair a small working party, and I have now seen her response.

I am not clear how this fits in with the conclusions of the Health Ministers collectively about the follow-up to the report on alternative finance for the National Health Service. These conclusions were set out in your letter of 25 July to Willie Whitelaw. In that letter we suggested that there should be further studies of a specified kind.

Is the study proposed in your minute to the Prime Minister one of these? Your minute does not in fact specify exactly the area he would cover. Nor am I clear whether this is a Party Committee or one serviced by Civil Servants.

I think there should be further consideration with Health Ministers before Arthur Elton's commission is further defined; and I am bound to say that I would strongly have preferred consultation to have taken place before you sent your minute to the Prime Minister.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Secretaries of State for Wales and Northern Ireland and the Paymaster General.

GEORGE YOUNGER

30 JUL 1962



CONFIDENTIAL

National Health
Ch 2/8



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Oddl wrth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP

From The Secretary of State for Wales

30th July 1982

De Nona

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRIVATE HEALTH SECTOR

Thank you for copying to me your minute of 26 July to the Prime Minister. I strongly support the establishment of this study but would ask that I and my department should be kept in the closest possible touch with it. Considerations affecting the private sector differ sharply between London and the South East and other parts of the Country, I think that any study must take full account of this and that this point should be covered in its terms of reference.

/ I am copying this letter to the recipients of your minute.

F. Fowler
Recd

The Rt Hon Norman Fowler MP
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Department of Health and Social Security
Alexander Fleming House
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