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FROM: CHIEF SECRETARY
DATE: 8 January 1985

PRIME MINISTER

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MARRIAGE GUIDANCE FUNDING

I have seen a copy of Robert Armstrong's minute to you of 29 November in which he invited you to consider transferring Ministerial responsibility for marriage guidance work from the Home Secretary to the Secretary of State for Social Services. I have recently seen also a copy of Leon Brittan's minute of 19 December in which he sets out his views.

2. I accept that the Department of Health and Social Security would be a more logical home for this responsibility. But I am concerned that we might face pressures as a result of the transfer for a more active policy involving more expenditure. If we can be sure that these pressures can be resisted then I see no difficulty in the transfer. If we cannot resist these pressures then I must enter the reservation that, in the current public expenditure climate, any increase which may arise in the level of funding or in manpower resources would need to be found from within the responsible department's existing programme or manpower target.

3. I am copying this minute to Leon Brittan, Norman Fowler and Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'PR' or similar initials.

for PETER REES

[Approved by the Chief Secretary]

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So Much
Marriage
Guidance
Nov. 84



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