



Mufaxed to
Cheques.

Prime Minister (2)

SJ Like
1. 3. 80

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

National Health.

Nick Sanders Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

29.2.80

Dear Nick

LAMBETH, SOUTHWARK AND LEWISHAM

Mr Jenkin spoke to the Prime Minister last night about the timing and presentation of a Bill to validate the actions of the Commissioners for Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham from the day of appointment to the end of this financial year.

Notice of the Bill will be given on Monday 3 March when the Secretary of State proposes to make a further statement. The terms of the Bill have been revised in the light of the views expressed both by the Prime Minister and my Secretary of State; I attach a copy. Whilst the revised draft is not in the form we would like, in that it validates the direction which the court has ruled against rather than merely validating the action taken by the Commissioners, we are advised by Parliamentary Counsel that this is the only way to proceed.

I am glad to report that the meeting with the Area Health Authority this afternoon was both constructive and friendly. The Authority agreed that the best course was for the Commissioners to continue until 31 March to allow an orderly transfer to the Authority thereafter and accepted that it was their responsibility to live within the cash limits set by the Government and the Regional Health Authority.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to John Chilcot (Home Office), Bill Beckett (Law Officers Department), John Stephens (Office of the Chancellor of the Duchy) and Murdo Maclean (Government Chief Whips Office).

Yours ever
D Brereton

D BRERETON

Enc.

D R A F T

O F A

B I L L

T O

Give temporary effect to an instrument purporting to be a direction given by the Secretary of State for Social Services.

Be it enacted, etc.

Effect of Secretary of State's instrument.

1. The instrument dated 1st August 1979 and purporting to be a direction given by the Secretary of State for Social Services with respect to the functions of the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Area Health Authority (Teaching) shall have effect and be deemed to have had effect as if it had been a valid direction under section 86 of the National Health Service Act 1977 specifying as the period during which those functions were to be performed by others the period beginning on 1st August 1979 and ending on 31st March 1980.

1977 c.49.

Short title.

2. This Act may be cited as the National Health Service (Invalid Direction) Act 1980.