

cc Ingham  
Wolfe  
Vesicles  
Daguid



Prime Minister <sup>2</sup> <sup>Not Ind</sup>  
he will discuss with you  
next week precisely when you  
should meet the doctors.

May 7, 1981

Prime Minister

DDRB REPORT

*[Handwritten signature]*

Primarily Thursday p.m.  
or early Friday am.

As I told you, I met representatives of the BMA and the BDA last night to hear their reaction to the possibility of the Report not being accepted in full. They were helpful and forthcoming, and were obviously prepared for rejection of the Report (though they may be expecting a more generous revised offer than we have in mind). They stressed, however, that less generous treatment for them than for the Civil Service could lead to difficulties.

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They emphasised that presentation was all important, and suggested that if you explained the decision to them personally, and acknowledged the seriousness of the step being taken, it would reassure their members that future Reports would not be dismissed lightly. They are keen to preserve the Review Body system and hoped that the Review Body would not resign in protest. For the same reason they were strongly opposed to asking the Review Body itself to rework their Report in any way that would change the relativities between different groups. They would not, however, object to the Review Body being asked to undertake the technical exercise of recalculating the fees and allowances for general medical practitioners alone, if the GPs negotiators agree. On the question of dentists' expenses, the BDA were reluctant to commit themselves to anything before seeing the Report itself.

You agreed you would meet the professions shortly before the formal announcement of our decision. For my part, I have written to Sir Robert Clark outlining the professions' views on further advice from the Review Body, and suggesting that for the present we would not wish to ask them to do more than the recalculation of general medical practitioners' fees.

I am copying this to members of E Committee, George Younger, Nick Edwards and Sir Robert Armstrong.

PJ