

(34)

DR WALFORD

BPL - SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS

Your minute of 12 June to Dr Harris - which was copied to Mr Hart - refers.

On the question of commissioning a new BPL, we would guess that this could be done in 3 years if (i) we used a commercial firm to plan, design, supervise construction and commission (ii) we had approval to go ahead now and (iii) the funds were available. But we don't see a decision being made on (i) except as part of a wider decision on who is to run BPL in future.

Our further thoughts are that (a) we should need to talk to other firms (as originally proposed), (b) an interested firm would undoubtedly insist on knowing the ultimate intention of the Department and (c) we need to know what qualifies a firm as "British".

Our medical colleagues here have added that a prime requirement in this matter must be "updating" the BTS.

GRO-C

27 June 1980

F W HARRIS

HSSB

CC Mr Hart  
Dr Wintersgill  
Mr J Sharpe  
Mr P Jones