

(44)

Dr Walford
Mr Wormald

SHORT-TERM UPGRADING OF BPL

It is very important that we get Ministerial agreement to the short term improvements to BPL as soon as possible so that Dr Lane can put the work in hand. The longer we delay the more inflation eats into the money which has already been allocated. I understand that Dr Lane has now let you have the information which was identified at the meeting which I chaired on 29 April, and that the critical factor is that close examination of the proposed expenditure does not indicate any possible savings and, in fact, if we are going to ask Dr Lane to increase production there may be a slight increase in costs. These factors should not deter us from getting a submission to Ministers as soon as possible.

Referring to Mr Wormald's minute of 2 June following his discussion with Mr Lawrence of the North West Thames RHA, it is not clear what he means by the use of the word 'reprovision' of BPL in paragraph 10. If, as according to the Oxford dictionary, this should mean 'refurbish' then I disagree that the submission will need to go to Ministers well before the decision on these short-term improvements. On the other hand, if he meant to 'rebuild' the laboratories then I agree that the management arrangements will have to be sorted out in advance.

GRO-C

9 June 1980

E L Harris

c.c. Dr Oliver
Mr Harley
Mr Brechin
Mr Dutton

Mr Cragg / File