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The Rt Hon Norman Fowler MP  
Secretary of State for Social Services  
Department of Health and Social Security  
Alexander Fleming House  
Elephant and Castle  
LONDON  
SE1 6BY

27 April 1982

Dear Norman,

IN VITRO FERTILISATION: POSSIBLE ENQUIRY INTO MEDICAL ETHICS

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 4 April to Willie Whitelaw.

We are content with the line of your proposals for a Committee appointed on the basis you suggest and serviced by your Department, to consider the implications of recent developments in the field of human fertilisation. The terms of reference you suggest seem entirely appropriate to the particular issues of difficulty in this field; and I am glad to note that they are wide enough to enable the Committee to consider the implications of various techniques which are now available to overcome problems of infertility.

I have also seen James MacKay's letter to you of 22 April suggesting that he need not be formally involved in the appointment of the Committee: our domestic arrangements within the Scottish Office will ensure that his views are reflected in the Scottish names we suggest for membership of the Committee.

As to membership, I would like provision to be made for the appointment of two people from Scotland - probably one to cover medical interests and another knowledgeable about family law. I appreciate that it is not easy to get within a relatively small committee the right spread and balance of membership to reflect all the different interests. My officials are at present exploring possibilities for Scottish representation and I have asked them to discuss the detailed pattern of membership for the Committee with your officials before I put forward any nominations from Scotland.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours ever,  
Cunne



27 APR 1982

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