

Director-General Health and Chief Executive NHSScotland
Dr Kevin Woods

T: 0131-244 2410 F: 0131-244 2162
E: dghealth@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



NHS Board Chief Executives

20 August 2010

Dear Colleague

Request for comments on the 'Future Approach to Governance' in NHSScotland

At the March NHS Board Chief Executives meeting earlier this year plans were presented to strengthen governance arrangements in NHSScotland in the context of the development of the Quality Strategy and the publication of the report by Robert Francis QC concerning the outcome of the Independent inquiry into events at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. These messages were also reinforced at an NHS Chairs meeting.

Immediately following the NHS Board Chief Executives Meeting I wrote to all Chief Executives to underline the fundamental importance of the need for a period of reflection and discussion across the NHS in Scotland concerning the findings and lessons to emerge from the Francis Inquiry and previous reports in relation to events at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. NHS Board Chief Executives have been required to ensure there is a substantive discussion on these issues at a forthcoming meeting of every NHS Board. It is expected that these discussions will be informed by consideration of the Inquiry's recommendations in the NHS Board's Clinical Governance Committee, the Area Partnership Forum, and the Area Clinical Forum. I look forward to notification of the outcome of these discussions.

The purpose of this letter is to request NHS Boards consider the attached paper 'Future Approach to Governance' in the context of the current governance discussions within your Board. It also seeks to ensure appropriate links to the Healthcare Quality Strategy for NHSScotland.

I would welcome views on the content of the paper. Responses should consider potential implications of the proposed approach for your NHS Board. I would welcome the inclusion of an organogram of your current governance structure, how this may need to develop, together with examples of developments currently underway.

I would be grateful if you could provide this to Mark Aggleton by 15 October 2010.
Mark.aggleton@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

KEVIN WOODS

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.scotland.gov.uk

