

22 October 2010

Dr Kevin Woods  
Director-General and Chief Executive NHS Scotland  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
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Dear Kevin

### **Future Approach to Governance – NHS Scotland**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document. NHS Health Scotland is committed to demonstrating principles of good governance in all our external and internal activities.

Due to the timing of our recent Board meetings, we look forward to reviewing the NHS Scotland Good Governance Principles together as a Board on 26 November. The Chair, Margaret Burns and myself are broadly comfortable with the six high level principle statements in the document and believe we can demonstrate good practice against all of these. I am pleased to note they reflect the strategic themes in our Board Development plan and continuous improvements in governance we have been making over the last couple of years as a direct result of the QIS Peer Review process.

As a national Board, you will appreciate we often need to adapt national guidance to the organisational context and this proposed governance approach is no exception. For example, some of the detailed principles are focused on territorial Boards which provide services direct to patients, so we may need to interpret individual principle statements to find a meaningful equivalent for NHS Health Scotland. Taking this approach, we are confident of our ability to use these broad principles as a foundation for improving our existing governance structures.

We have attached an organogram showing our current arrangements as requested; the most recent development to these arrangements has been the introduction of the Health Governance Committee.

I hope that this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely



**Gerald McLaughlin**  
Chief Executive

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