

USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT The Department of Health

Overview

The Department of Health (DH) provides strategic leadership for public health, the NHS and social care in England. It will be the place in government that leads the way on protecting and improving people's health. It will be the 'architect' for the new system of health and care and, in summary, will:

- continue to carry out its Department of State functions, supporting ministers, developing legislation, providing parliamentary accountability and liaising with Treasury for resources
- own the strategic design of the health and care system as a whole
- set the overall ambition for improvement in people's health and wellbeing
- have more responsibility for health and the prevention of ill health, and have national and local responsibility for public health through Public Health England and the work of local Health and Wellbeing Boards
- set the strategic direction for the NHS, based on outcomes, and hold it to account for achievements
- set the vision, policy framework, and funding system for social care
- ensure that all parts of the health and care system work in partnership and collaboratively
- have an increased role in cross-government research and development
- act to ensure health is embedded into cross-governmental policy

DH's relationship with its ALBs will be crucial to the effectiveness of the reformed health and social care system. DH will continue to provide sponsorship to all of the continuing and new Executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies (ENDPBs) and Executive Agencies, such as Public Health England and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), with the aim of delivering leadership and common purpose across the health and social care system.

Location

DH is based primarily in London and Leeds. It is based in Richmond House, Skipton House and Wellington House in London and in Quarry House in Leeds. It also works from a number of other buildings and premises across the country.

Numbers of Staff

The Department of Health currently employs just over 2400 staff. Because of the possible changes to its role and the efficiencies it needs to make over the Spending Review period this may reduce to around 1700 staff. It is expected that this reduction will be achieved in a combination of ways including, people leaving through joining other organisations, and redeployment to other government departments, and through an exit from the Civil Service.

Organisation Design

From 2013/14, the Department, led by the Permanent Secretary, will operate with five directorates and the Chief Medical Officer's Office, which includes leadership of Research & Development.

Useful documents

Human Resources (HR) Transition Framework

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_126234

Department of Health website

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/about-us/>