

POC1_534271

Professor Gillian Morris
Chair NHS Pay Review Body
6th Floor Kingsgate House
66-74 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6SW

*Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS*

*Tel: 020 7210 3000
mb-sofs@dh.gsi.gov.uk*

19 AUG 2010

Dear Gillian,

It was very good to meet you, and Ron Amy, on 22 July 2010. I found our discussion very helpful and was grateful to you both for raising a number of issues on which you needed clarity for the NHS Pay Review Body during the pay freeze.


I am pleased that the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander, has now written to you and the other Pay Review Body Chairs on 26 July 2010 to clarify many of these matters and set out the Government's approach to public sector pay in England in 2011/12.

I am aware that the NHSPRB makes recommendations for the whole of the United Kingdom. It is for each of the devolved administrations to make their own decision on their approach to this year's Review Body round and to communicate this to you. My officials have been closely in touch, and remain closely in touch, with their counterparts in the other countries and will do all they can to support you in handling the consequences of any different approaches taken by each country.

I also wanted to explain that we will be unable to meet your original timetable for the receipt of evidence by 23 September 2010. As you will understand, we are currently in a very challenging spending review cycle and this will not be completed until 20 October 2010. As during the last Spending Review under the previous Government, this delay will impact on your timetable. With regard to England, we will do all we can to ensure that the evidence and information you require is with the Review Body as soon after that date as is possible, and by mid-November at the latest. I have also asked my officials to work closely with your secretariat to minimise the practical effect of this on your overall timetable. Recognising the role for the NHSPRB set out in the Agenda for Change Agreement, we will provide evidence, as necessary, on high cost area supplements and recruitment and retention premia.

Finally, I want to emphasise the value that I and the Government place on the independent and expert view of the Review Body. Thank you for your work. I look forward to receiving your report in due course.

I am copying this letter to Nicola Sturgeon, Edwina Hart, Michael McGimpsey and representatives of the staff side and NHS Employers.

Yours ever,


ANDREW LANSLEY CBE