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Jerry Cope
Chair, NHS Pay Review Body
Email to Stacey.Muncaster@bis.gsi.gov.uk

6th November, 2015

Dear Jerry,

I am writing as a follow up to the letter you received from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Greg Hands on 19 August 2015 confirming the Government's approach to pay awards in the public sector for 2016/2017. I do apologise for the long delay in writing to you.

I am grateful for the invaluable work you and your members carry out on behalf of all those that participate in the annual pay review process. The government has made it clear that pay restraint in the public sector continues to be a crucial part of its plans to reduce the deficit. I appreciate that this presents particular challenges, but your expert, impartial and independent judgement is vital as employers and staff respond to the unprecedented challenges facing the NHS.

The Government has announced that it will fund annual pay awards in the public sector at an average of one per cent in each of the next four years (2016/2017 to 2019/2020). In his letter to you, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury also asked that you consider how an award might best be targeted to support recruitment and retention.

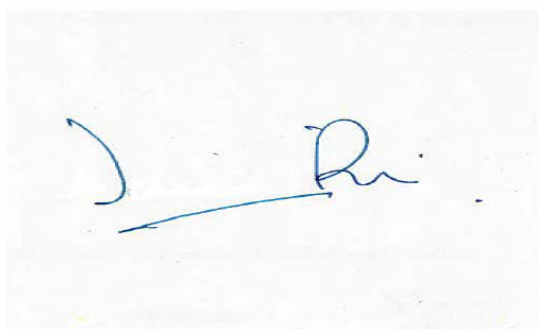
I invite the NHS Pay Review Body to consider the case for targeting to support recruitment and retention, including High Cost Area Supplement

and to make recommendations within an average of one per cent for staff employed under Agenda for Change.

I would like to thank you and your members for your work on the special report:

‘Enabling the delivery of healthcare services every day of the week – the implications for Agenda for Change’. We hope to take forward partnership discussions between NHS Employers and NHS trades unions on the reform of Agenda for Change.

As always, whilst your remit covers the whole of the United Kingdom, it is for each administration to make its own decisions on its approach to this year’s pay round and to communicate this to you directly.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Prior', is centered on a white background. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending from the 'D'.

DAVID PRIOR