



Department  
of Health

*From the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
Secretary of State for Health*

*39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU*

*Mb-sofs@dh.gsi.gov.uk*

Professor Sir Paul Curran  
Chair Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration  
Office of Manpower Economics  
Fleetbank House  
2-6 Salisbury Square  
London  
EC4Y 8JX

7 December 2017

Dear Professor Curran,

I am writing firstly to express my thanks for your valuable work on the 2017-18 pay round and secondly, to formally commence the 2018-19 pay round.

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury wrote to you in September setting out the Government's overall approach to pay. That letter confirmed that the Government has adopted a more flexible approach to public sector pay, to address any areas of skills shortages and in return for improvements to public sector productivity. The last Spending Review budgeted for one per cent average basic pay awards, in addition to progression pay for specific workforces, and there will still be a need for pay discipline over the coming years to ensure the affordability of the public service and the sustainability of public sector employment; review bodies should continue to consider affordability when making their recommendations.

You are invited to make recommendations in relation to the employed medical workforce about targeting funding to support productivity and recruitment and retention. We would like you to consider how resources might be targeted, including: through the existing mechanisms of the flexible pay premia in the contract for doctors and dentists in training, taking account of views from Health Education England on hard-to-fill training programmes; and as a response to discussions between NHS Employers and the BMA on reform of the consultant contract, where the expectation is that the parties – the BMA and NHS Employers – will update you on the progress of negotiations. The parties



Department  
of Health

*From the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
Secretary of State for Health*

will also update you on the progress of negotiations with the GPC and other discussions with independent contractors in relation to expenses.

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.

**JEREMY HUNT**