

Gateway reference number 18151



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To: PCT Chief Executives

18 September 2012

Re: RLA – Public Health Transitional Support Funds for Local Authorities

Local government across England is making excellent progress in welcoming public health teams from the NHS, and in making plans to improve the health of their communities once their new responsibilities commence from April 2013.

The transition of thousands of staff and planning for these new functions inevitably requires additional capacity.

The Department of Health is able to make a significant contribution to these costs. We are making available financial support to each unitary and upper tier local authority to strengthen capacity to manage the change, and to address the costs that local authorities will incur arising from taking on new public health functions. Transitional support will enable the change to happen safely minimising the diversion of staff and resources from day to day duties and delivery.

With this letter is an RLA (Resource Limited Adjustment) indicating the allocation of transitional support to be issued to the Local Authority(s) who are taking on the public health leadership role in your area. Colleagues at the local authority have been notified of the amount and associated process through a similar letter. The distribution methodology used is that each area receives a share of £15m, based half on equal shares and half on a fixed per capita amount.

It is expected that this transitional support will contribute towards the costs of additional professional fees for moving from one organisational form to another, including:

- Additional HR capability; to ensure valuable public health staff are retained and supported during transition e.g. given tailored HR advice, induction programmes developed and delivered, 'welcome' sessions arranged ahead of transfer

- Legal advice; due diligences as required, legal and surveyor fees in relation to property issues, legal and procurement professional fees in relation to contracts, legal and set up costs for the new structures
- Estates; co-location of teams/staff and equipment will require additional estates capacity such as IM&T issues, office moves, and additional equipment
- Project Planning; additional capacity required to ensure a robust, safe move, in budget, on time, with minimum disruption to services.

This funding should make a significant contribution towards these and other transition costs, as we approach the final crucial phase of the transition. I am very grateful for all your work with Local Government in ensuring a smooth and safe transition of public health staff and services.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duncan Selbie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Duncan" being more prominent than the last name "Selbie".

**Duncan Selbie**  
**Chief Executive Designate**  
**Public Health England**