

*From the Office of Sir David Nicholson KCB CBE
Chief Executive of the NHS in England*



To: SHA Chief Executives

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Dear Colleagues

As you know, at its meeting yesterday the NHS Management Board discussed the arrangements for clustering SHAs. I am writing to set out what was agreed (in the attached briefing note) and would be grateful if you can cascade this information to staff across your organisations.

First and foremost, I want to repeat my thanks and appreciation for the support that you and colleagues have given to the NHS over recent years. I know how hard it has been over the past year as you have had to focus on supporting the local system to continue to deliver high levels of care, maintain financial control, help to introduce the reforms of the NHS, and deal with uncertainty about the future of your organisation.

I know that you and your staff will continue to give this process your full and professional support in the interest of the NHS and our patients.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Nicholson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Sir David Nicholson KCB CBE
NHS Chief Executive**