



Department  
of Health

**Dr Felicity Harvey CBE**  
**Director General for Public Health**

*Richmond House*  
*79 Whitehall*  
*London*  
*SW1A 2NS*  
*Telephone: 0207 210 5522*  
*Email: felicity.harvey@dh.gsi.gov.uk*

European Commission  
Research Executive Agency  
Unit A1.003  
FP7 Support unit – Validation Services  
COV2 13/096  
B-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

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Dear Sirs,

This letter outlines the changes set in place by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 which came into effect from 1 April 2013 and supports the transfer of the Health Protection Agency's Participant Identification Code to Public Health England.

Through the Health Protection Agency Property Transfer Scheme, all the rights and obligations of Health Protection Agency were transferred in their entirety to the Secretary of State for Health, and these functions are now exercised through Public Health England, an Executive Agency of the Department of Health, whose creation was formally announced in the London Gazette on 2 May 2013.

Established to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing and to reduce inequalities, Public Health England (PHE) has operational autonomy, through its Advisory Board with a non-executive Chairman and non-executive members, to execute and fulfil the Secretary of State for Health's statutory duty to promote national health and wellbeing. PHE will have operational autonomy. It will be free to publish information and advice it obtains from any source, and provide it to whomever it wants. PHE is expected to operate with the highest standards of professional and scientific independence, rigour and integrity.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Health.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Felicity Harvey**  
*Director General for Public Health*