



Department  
of Health

From Dr Dan Poulter MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health

Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS

POC5 896080

Tel: 020 7210 4850

Margaret Edwards  
Acting Chair  
Senior Salaries Review Body  
Office of Manpower Economics  
Level 8, Fleetbank House  
2-6 Salisbury Square  
London  
EC4Y 8AE

28 OCT 2014

*Dear Margaret,*

I wrote to you on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2014 setting out in more detail the special remit for the SSRB for 2015/16 on the pay of very senior managers (VSMs) in DH arms-length bodies, following the letter from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury's letter of 29<sup>th</sup> July. I said that we would invite the SSRB to comment on the emerging findings of the review we are undertaking of the VSM pay framework and I know my officials have been keeping yours informed of the progress of the review. We expected that we would be able to share findings with you by the end of this month.

However, unfortunately I now believe it is necessary to write to you again to let you know of a possibly quite significant delay. Although the review has been proceeding at pace, making a certain amount of progress and our specialist consultants who are providing technical support and expertise may have emerging findings available in a few weeks' time, we think that we will still have a considerable amount of work to do to develop our proposals and consult with the arms-length bodies and other stakeholders before we are in a position to share them with you. Our current view is that this may not be until early next year.

I appreciate that you will already have committed the SSRB to a work programme based on my earlier letter and I do apologise for the change of plan and any inconvenience this may cause. We certainly do still consider it essential that we have the input of the SSRB at an appropriate stage, though I recognise that this is likely to mean that we will be asking for your comments outside the normal reporting cycle for the SSRB. I do hope this will be possible for you.

I understand that you have requested information from us to provide context for your consideration of the emerging findings resulting from the review and we will press on with obtaining this for you. We will ensure that our officials continue to work closely with the SSRB's secretariat to keep you informed of our progress and provided with all other relevant information.

*Best regards,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'DP' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

**DR DAN POULTER**