



Public Health
England

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PHE Gateway Number: 2014-257
6 August 2014

To: Local Authority Chief Executives
Directors of Public Health

Dear everyone

Ringfenced Public Health Grant

Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation for the timely submissions of your preliminary Statements of Assurance in May for the ring-fenced Public Health Grant. This was a fundamental aspect of the assurance process providing evidence that grant conditions have been adhered to. It allowed Public Health England's (PHE's) accounts to be certified and laid before Parliament on time and helped the National Audit Office to confirm that the assurance gained was sufficient for it to express an unqualified opinion on the regularity of the expenditure recorded in PHE's financial statements for the 2013/14 financial year.

As you will be aware, the ring-fenced public health grant is paid to Local Authorities by PHE and as Chief Executive I am the Accounting Officer for the totality of this spend (circa £2.66 billion). I therefore have a responsibility to demonstrate that the grant has been spent on the purposes intended by Parliament. PHE has developed its assurance framework setting out the various elements of assurance which can be taken from existing arrangements in place across the public health system. There are a number of such forms of assurance, most fundamental of which is the annual year end Statement of Assurance, which builds on the interim statement provided earlier and is fundamental given that the financial audits of Local Authorities have now taken place. A draft template statement is provided at Annex A for this purpose.

You will be aware that the original grant conditions as set out in Local Authority Circular LAC(DH)(2013)1 on 10 January 2013 require that the Revenue Outturn (RO) forms that are submitted to DCLG during or before August must be certified by each authority's Chief Executive that, to the best of his or her knowledge, the amounts shown on the Statement are

all eligible expenditure and that the grant has been used for the purposes intended, as set out in the grant conditions.

As a result of issues considered and advice received during the statutory audit and as part of the review of our assurance framework with regard to the ring fenced grant it has been agreed that the final year end Statement of Assurance can now be signed by either the Chief Executive or the Section 151 Officer. Additionally, in order to strengthen the professional public health assurance that the grant has been spent in line with the grant conditions we also now require the Assurance Statement to be signed by your Director of Public Health.

You will therefore appreciate the importance of ensuring that the integrity of the system for providing assurance that all spend against the ring-fenced grant complies with relevant grant conditions is maintained, and that this assurance is available to support me. It would be greatly appreciated if you could arrange for the attached year end Statement of Assurance to be sent to PHE at publichealthgrant@phe.gov.uk no later than 30 September 2014.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duncan Selbie'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Duncan Selbie
Chief Executive

Annexe A

Year End Statement of Assurance

[Insert name of local authority]

Date: DD/MM/YYYY

Statement of Assurance: Ring-fenced Public Health Grant Determination 2013/14: No 31/2100

The ring-fenced public health grant, in the amount of £..... has been provided to this local authority towards expenditure incurred in the 2013/2014 financial year.

As the authority's Chief Executive / Section 151 Officer, I have reviewed the health Revenue Outturn (RO) form and can confirm that the grant has been used to discharge the public health functions set out in Section 73B (2) of the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012). I also confirm that the amounts stated in the RO form are a true reflection of how the grant has been spent, including any amounts held in the authority's public health reserve.

I affirm that where funding has been combined ('pooled') with funds from other sources, that has been in accordance with the relevant conditions in paragraphs 5-6 of the grant Determination.

[Signed / Position]

[Signed / Position]

Chief Executive / S151 Officer *

Director of Public Health

(Please state position of signatory, and capacity in which signed (Chief Executive or S151 Officer)*