



Department
of Health

*From Dr Dan Poulter MP
Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Health*

*Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS*

Tel: 020 7210 4850

13th November 2014

TO: NHS TRUST CHIEF EXECUTIVES AND NHS FOUNDATION TRUST CHIEF EXECUTIVES

Dear Colleague,

I wrote to you in the summer to remind you of the opportunities and the benefits of disposing of any unused land and property. This is a win/win, providing funding for reinvestment and efficiency savings that can be used to deliver better services to patients as well as supporting wider government objectives on housing and growth.

In any land sale, it is important that trusts engage early with the local planning authority (LPA) on the alternative uses for the subject site, and later, with the local community as part of the planning process. These requirements are set out in departmental guidance - Health Building Note 00-08.

Trusts should engage with the LPA in drafting the Local Plan, which will assess the future housing needs in the local area. I am keen that trusts do not miss out on informing Local Plans at an early stage and therefore miss out on potential opportunities to influence local planners about the future shape and needs of the local health economy. There are still 72 councils across the country without a Local Plan. While the best time to engage is when a plan is in preparation, Government policy and guidance is clear that plans should be updated to reflect changing circumstances.

I would encourage you to think carefully about whether you have, or are likely to have, sites which are surplus that may be used for alternative purposes and approach local planning authorities at the earliest opportunity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dan Poulter', written over a horizontal line.

DR DAN POULTER