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Dr Patricia Rice  
Chair of the STRB  
c/o Office of Manpower Economics  
Fleetbank House  
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13<sup>th</sup> July 2016

*Dear Dr. Rice,*

PUBLIC SECTOR PAY 2017-18

1 Thank you for your work on the 2016-17 pay round. The Pay Review Bodies continue to play an invaluable role in making independent, evidence-based recommendations on public sector pay awards, as well as continuing to provide high-quality advice on wider reforms to pay and allowances policy. I am extremely grateful to you and your colleagues for your considered work. Over the remainder of the Parliament I look forward to the Pay Review Bodies continuing to advise the Government on how best to achieve pay reforms and deliver fair and sustainable pay awards for public sector workforces

2. As you know the fiscal context remains very challenging following the outcome of the EU referendum vote. However, the Government's public sector pay policy, announced at Summer Budget 2015 and reaffirmed in the Autumn Statement and Spending Review 2015, was intended to enable prudent long-term planning while protecting jobs, and I can confirm that this policy remains in place. We will fund public sector workforces for pay awards of an average of 1 per cent a year, up to 2019/20.

3. As I set out in my letter to you last year, I expect to see targeted pay awards, in order to support the continued delivery of public services, and to address

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recruitment and retention pressures. This may mean that some workers could receive more than 1 per cent whilst others receive less, and there should be no expectation that every worker will receive a 1 per cent pay award. I am aware that this requires you to receive good, evidence-based propositions to consider.

4. Relevant Secretaries of State will write to you shortly with their remit letters, as and where needed. Relevant departments will submit their proposals covering the specific needs of their workforces in their evidence to you in the early autumn. I look forward to your 2017-18 recommendations.

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Hands".

GREG HANDS

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