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Professor Paul Curran
Chair
Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration
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Dear Prof Curran

Further to the letters that the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body has received from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Greg Hands, on 19 August 2015 and Lord Prior on 6 November 2015, I am writing to confirm the Scottish Government's remit to the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body for employed doctors and dentists for the 2016 pay round.

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and the Economy announced the Scottish Government's Public Sector Pay Policy for 2016-17 on 16 December 2015. This is a single year policy and sets out the parameters for pay increases for staff. A copy of the policy is available [here](#).

With regard to DDRB interests, the main features of this policy are:

- An overall 1 per cent cap on the cost of the increase in basic pay for those earning £22,000 or more.
- A continuation of the commitment to No Compulsory Redundancies.

You will appreciate that all consideration on this issue by Scottish Ministers must be informed by this policy framework. However, beyond the elements set out above, we would wish the Pay Review Body to be as free as possible in considering the issues and making recommendations for Scotland for 2016-17. It is important to take into account the considerable on-going financial challenges facing NHSScotland at the present time and that any pay increase has to be affordable.

At the request of DDRB, the Scottish Government commissioned an exercise to collect more robust information on the expenses of independent GPs in order to support the pay review process. The response to this exercise has been disappointing. In view of our mutual difficulties with respect to this commission, the Scottish Government requests DDRB to consider how this information may be provided in the future, and on what basis the Scottish Government should proceed with making an award for 2016-17.

For General Practitioners we again seek the DDRB's recommendation in respect of GP pay and contractual uplift. The Scottish Government is committed to increasing its investment in general practice and the DDRB's recommendation is a helpful factor in that decision-making process.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Review Body for their work and assure you that the Scottish Government continues to value the independent voice which the Review Body offers on doctors' and dentists' pay.

Copies of this letter have been sent to the Secretary of State for Health and the respective Ministers in the devolved administrations as well as representatives of the Staff Side and NHS employers.

*Yours sincerely,
Shona Robison*

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