



Department
of Health

**National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)
Annual Accountability Review Meeting
10 September 2015**

Present:

Department of Health

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| George Freeman | Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Life Sciences (PS)LS |
| Dr Will Cavendish | Director General, Innovation, Growth and Technology Directorate and Senior Departmental Sponsor for NICE |
| Liz Woodeson | Director, Medicines, Pharmacy and Industry |
| Claire Armstrong | Deputy Director, Medicines, Pharmacy Industry - NICE and MHRA sponsorship |

NICE

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| Sir Andrew Dillon | Chief Executive, NICE |
| Prof David Haslam | Chairman, NICE |

1. Review of Progress in 2014/15

Sir Andrew Dillon acknowledged the significant challenges the health and care system faces and how crucial it is for NICE to continuously evolve to remain relevant (e.g. impact of fast-moving developments in genomics and personalised medicines). NICE spoke of the value it places to being open and transparent, about the way it conducts its business and seeks feedback from stakeholders. PS(LS) praised NICE's approach to open board meetings and how NICE had embraced the move to all digital. NICE raised some of the strategic challenges that they face and how going forward they will continue to work to ensure that what NICE does is understood, relevant, and used by the system. Prof David Haslam added that NICE was keen to uphold its international reputation for evidence-based approach without becoming complacent. The progress of NICE International and its potential for expansion was also discussed. PS(LS) acknowledged the pivotal role played by NICE in helping the health and care system overall address the significant challenges it faces. In particular PS(LS) thanked Sir Andrew Dillon and Prof David Haslam for the excellent work NICE has done over the past year, praising its flexibility to adapt to emerging system priorities, and its continued support of Government's ambitious Innovation and Growth agenda.

2. Major Strategic Issues – 2015/16 and Beyond

a. Accelerated Access Review (AAR) and Cancer Drugs Fund

PS(LS) thanked NICE for its constructive engagement with the AAR and providing timely expert advice and input into relevant workstreams. PS(LS) described how through the AAR he hoped to give NICE the chance to be bold in their proposals.

Attendees discussed the opportunities and challenges of moving assessment decisions further upstream, touching on the Early Access to Medicines Scheme, e.g. engaging with companies earlier, potentially reducing time, risks and costs.

Attendees spoke about the need to streamline the process implementation after NICE has issued guidance, followed by a discussion on managed access arrangements.

b. NICE's role in the productivity challenge

Attendees discussed what NICE could do to support the health and care system with decommissioning services and healthcare processes that are less effective in order to make more space for more innovative and effective services and processes. This discussion covered how the system could make more effective use of NICE recommendations of 'what not to do' currently included as part of NICE guidance.

c. NICE and digital health

PS(LS) discussed the role of NICE in support of the Digital Health agenda. NICE updated attendees on their latest thinking in relation to assessing Apps as part of the National Information Board (NIB) work.

d. Any other business

PS(LS) closed the meeting by reiterating his thanks to NICE for their work over the last year, and NICE took the opportunity to express their thanks for the on-going support from Will Cavendish, Liz Woodeson, Claire Armstrong and the sponsorship team.

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