

Richmond House 79 Whitehall London SW1A 2NS

Tel: 020 7210 4850

Paul Curran Chair, Doctors and Dentists Review Body Email to cliff.wilkes@bis.gsi.gov.uk

6<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

Dear Paul,

I am writing as a follow up to the letter you received from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Greg Hands, on 19 August 2015 confirming the Government's approach to pay awards in the public sector for 2016/2017. I do apologise for the long delay in writing to you.

I am grateful for the invaluable work you and your members carry out on behalf of all those that participate in the pay review process. The government has made it clear that pay restraint in the public sector continues to be a crucial part of its plans to reduce the deficit. I appreciate that this presents particular challenges, but your expertise, impartial and independent judgement is vital as employers and staff respond to the unprecedented challenges facing the NHS.

The Government has announced that it will fund annual pay awards in the public sector at an average of one per cent in each of the next four years (2016/2017 to 2019/2020). In his letter to you, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury also asked that you consider how an award might be targeted to support recruitment and retention.

## **Employed Doctors and Dentists**

I invite the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' remuneration to consider the case for targeting to support recruitment and retention and to make recommendations within an average of one per cent for employed doctors. I would like to thank you and your members for your work on the special reports on the reform of consultant and junior doctor employment contracts. The BMA have agreed to re-enter talks on the reform of consultant contracts with new contracts implemented by 1 April 2016 and existing staff given the option to transfer to the new contract from 1 April 2017.

The BMA decided not to re-enter talks on the reform of the junior doctor contract. We have asked NHS Employers to continue work to introduce a new junior doctor contract from 1 August 2016. They will continue to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including the BMA as they develop and implement a new contract.

Pay recommendations for 2016/2017 should be based on existing contracts only.

## **Independent Contractors**

For general medical practitioners and general dental practitioners, the Government would welcome the views of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' remuneration as to how an overall pay uplift of an average of one per cent could be applied to improve recruitment and retention.

As always, whilst your remit covers the whole of the United Kingdom, it is for each administration to make its own decisions on its approach to this year's pay round and to communicate this to you directly.

**DAVID PRIOR**