



National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

*cc AMP⁺ DR
ASHTS TD
JP+ CAW*

NHS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

Summary

1. This letter gives further information about implementation of the recommendations of the recent PA Study, whose report Don Cruickshank sent to BGMs with his letter dated 1992, and announces a workshop for General Managers on 20 May 1992.

Action

2. Workshop booking forms should be copied to UGMs/Senior Managers with a responsibility for the management of communications systems and submitted to Management Development Group by 4 May 1992.

Management Executive Focal Point

3. The Management Executive has broadly accepted the recommendations set out in the PA Report. The Chief Executive has tasked me both with progressing those recommendations and with providing within my Directorate the Management Executive focal point for all matters concerned with telecommunications. To assist me in these tasks, acting as Project Manager for the introduction of an overall strategy for NHS communications systems in Scotland, will be Chris Hickinbotham, the National Emergency Planning Officer. He will continue to be based in St Andrew's House and may be contacted on telephone 031-244 2431 (Fax 031-244 3482).

Mobile System

4. A priority focus of attention is the new mobile communications system being installed initially for the Scottish Ambulance Service, but which was intended also to meet wider NHS needs. The future shape and scope of this project are presently subject to assessment by external consultants. I will let you know the outcome of that review as soon as I can as not only is it likely to affect all NHS users and potential users of mobile communications, but is fundamental to the future architecture of our data communications too.

6 April 1992

Addresses

For action:
General Managers,
Health Boards

General Manager,
Common Services Agency

Chief Executive,
NHS Trusts

Chief Executive
Designate,
NHS Trusts

General Manager,
State Hospital

To be copied to:
Unit General Managers

Enquiries to:

C J HICKINBOTHAM OBE
Room 372
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG
Tel: 031-244 2431
Fax: 031-244 3482

Seminar:

MRS N GREEN
Management Development
Group
Crewe Road South
EDINBURGH EH4 2LF
Tel: 031-332 2335
Fax: 031-315 2369

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Local Strategies

5. While the PA Study has provided us with the broad framework of a national strategy for communications systems, and for their management, it also identified the need to undertake reviews to develop local strategies for meeting present and future requirements for communications services. A methodology for undertaking these reviews is being developed, and will be distributed in due course.

Purchasing and Supplier Management

6. The capability of the CSA Supplies Division in the field of central purchasing and supplier management is being extended to telecommunications equipment and services. The potential financial benefits to the NHS as a whole of this approach have been well illustrated during recent negotiations with British Telecom on fault repair services, further call-off contracts will follow.

Workshop

7. In his 28 February letter, the Chief Executive invited you to review your management arrangements for communications systems. To assist you in this, and to raise awareness of the issues involved, a half-day has been arranged for General Managers of Boards, Chief Executives of NHS Trusts, Unit General Managers and/or Senior Managers to whom overall responsibility for managing communications systems has now been delegated. The workshop will take place at the Hilton Hotel, Livingston on 20 May from 1.30pm until 18.45pm. This venue and timing have been chosen to enable participants in the Chief Executive's seminar there that morning to attend but unfortunately it has not been possible to find a date which would enable the attendance of those participating in the Leadership and Team Building module of the UGM Development Programme.



C KNOX
Director of Information Services