



National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

NHS TRUSTS
Summary

1. This letter responds to the enquiries we have received from the Service about NHS Trusts, the programme for taking them forward, and who is to be responsible for what. It sets down the action required by Boards and Units and the timetable to which we are working.

Action

Health Boards

2. Boards continue to have an important role in taking the policy forward. As purchasers they will wish to determine in conjunction with their Units the most appropriate configuration for Trust status. I envisage the Management Executive also being involved in this. Devolution of HQ functions will assume higher priority and Boards will have a crucial role in ensuring that managers and clinicians in Units have the resources and competence for the tasks and increased responsibility that lie ahead as potential Trusts.

Units

3. It is clear from the enquiries received that there is already considerable interest being expressed at all levels and across all disciplines about Trust status. I look to UGMs to take the lead in harnessing and developing this interest with professional colleagues, particularly clinicians. "NHS Trusts: A Working Guide" explains the steps to be taken in developing a Trust "expression of interest" and "application" and George Thomson and his team here stand ready to give additional advice if this is required.

Timetable

4. A number of "expressions of interest" have already been received and I am aware that other Units which have been undertaking detailed business planning over the past few months are likely to make similar declarations in the coming weeks with the intention of submitting full applications by 30 June, the deadline for a 1 April 1993 Trust start-up. These applications have to be

7 May 1992

Addressees

For action:
Chairmen, Board
General Managers, and
Unit General Managers,
Health Boards

For information:
Chairman and General
Manager, Common
Services Agency

Chairman and General
Manager, State
Hospital

Chairman and General
Manager, Health
Education Board for
Scotland

Chief Executives, and
Chief Executive
Designate, NHS Trusts

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of high quality and I expect that there are relatively few Units or hospitals where the necessary planning and team building has advanced far enough for Trust status in April 1993 to be a realistic aim. For those less advanced in the essential preparatory work and, consequently, aiming for 1994, "expressions of interest" will be required by 1 October 1992 and applications by 31 March 1993. And this October/March cycle will apply to later years. To sum up, the timetable will be:-

Phase	Expression of Interest	Application	Operational
2	Within weeks	30 June 1992	1 April 1993
3	1 October 1992	31 March 1993	1 April 1994
Later years	1 October	31 March	1 April

Conclusion

5. Particularly for Phase 2 but also for later Phases, Units and hospitals face a considerable challenge if the necessary work is to be completed in line with the timetable outlined above. Colleagues and I in the Management Executive are ready to assist and advise in how to take this forward.

6. In view of the widespread interest in the subject I am extending the distribution of this letter to all Board Chairmen, General Managers, and Unit General Managers.

Yours sincerely



DON CRUICKSHANK

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