



National Health Service in Scotland  
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

**SCOTTISH HOSPITAL ADVISORY SERVICE (SHAS)  
PRIVATE SERVICES CONTRACTED BY HEALTH  
BOARDS**

**Summary**

1. This letter advises you of the extension of the remit of the Scottish Hospital Advisory Service (SHAS) to include a right of access to private establishments (including those run by non profit-making organisations) where a Health Board has contracted for services which, if they were provided by the NHS, would fall within the surveillance of SHAS; and requires Boards to include in all such contracts with the private sector a right of access for SHAS.

**Action**

- 2. General Managers are requested:
  - 2.1 to ensure that in all future contracts with the private sector for the provision of services to the mentally ill, the mentally handicapped, the elderly, and the young chronic sick, a right of access for SHAS should be incorporated;
  - 2.2 to advise SHAS when such contracts are negotiated, and provide SHAS with such non-commercially sensitive contract detail as is necessary for it to fulfil its normal duties and functions;
  - 2.3 to bring this letter to the attention of all relevant staff, including Unit General Managers.

**Background**

3. SHAS was established in 1970 to give information and advice to the Secretary of State and Health Boards on the management of hospitals and units for the mentally ill, the mentally handicapped, the elderly and the young chronic sick and to promote high standards of patient care.

4. SHAS's objectives are to organise and carry out a programme of visits to hospitals and units covered by its remit; to examine and assess the services for the client group concerned, to provide advice designed to maintain and improve the management arrangements and the organisation

29 May 1992

**Addressees:**

**For action:**  
General Managers,  
Health Boards

**For information:**  
General Manager,  
Common Services Agency

General Manager, State  
Hospital

General Manager,  
Health Education Board  
for Scotland

Chief Executives, and  
Chief Executive  
Designate, NHS Trusts

To be copied to Unit  
General Managers for  
information

**Enquiries to:**

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COMMON SERVICES AGENCY	
RECEIVED	
3 - JUN 1992	
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REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN

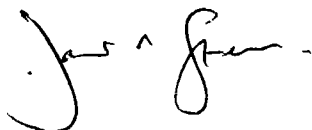
of patient care, inter-disciplinary collaboration, education and training of staff, and to produce following each visit a report containing information, comments and recommendations which is sent to the Secretary of State and the appropriate Health Board.

5. The conclusions of the 1990 review of SHAS were conveyed to General Managers in the Chief Executive's letter of 3 May 1990. Section 8 of that letter noted that, given current developments in community care, the elderly, mentally ill and people with a mental handicap would increasingly be cared for in the community rather than in hospital. It had been suggested during the review that SHAS's remit should be extended to cover the provision of health facilities in the community for these groups, and the letter indicated that further consideration would be given to this issue in the light of developing community care policies.

6. When it became clear that Health Boards were arranging for an increasing number of patients in SHAS's client groups to be cared for in private sector facilities under contract, proposals were presented to Board General Managers last year. Following that discussion, the Chief Executive and Ministers concluded that SHAS should have a role in assessing the standard of care these patients receive in private sector establishments and that Health Boards should include in all such contracts with the private sector a right of access for SHAS to carry out its normal duties and functions.

7. The reports on these visits will be disseminated and published by SHAS in the normal way following the procedure set out in Section 6 of the Chief Executive's letter of 3 May 1990.

Yours sincerely



**DAVID R STEEL**  
Director of Administration