



*Distance Copy*

National Health Service in Scotland  
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

HOURS OF WORK OF JUNIOR DOCTORS AND  
DENTISTS

Summary

1. This letter sets out intermediate targets for the implementation of "The New Deal" on the hours of work of junior doctors and dentists.

Action

2. The Ministerial Group on Junior Doctors' Hours met on 29 April to consider the latest progress reports. Tackling this long standing issue has not been easy, but it is clear that headway is being made. I would therefore like to express my thanks to all those involved.

3. It is essential to maintain the momentum and the Ministerial Group therefore decided that it would be helpful to set a target date of 1 April 1993 to bring hours down to a maximum average of 83 per week. A Ministerial announcement is to be made about this today. I recognise that this will be a challenging task but it is one to which I am sure Health Boards and Trusts can rise. Health Boards and Trusts will need to ensure that new contracts issued in February and March 1993 comply with the hours controls. I have asked The Scottish Implementation Group to discuss the practical steps that will need to be taken to deal with the particular problems of small specialities, rural areas and dispersed patterns of service provision.

4. This issue has also been discussed recently by the Manpower Joint Working Group which recognised that it would be useful to set down some further milestones on the road to our objectives for December 1994. I therefore propose that employing bodies should aim for 50% of their juniors doctors on on-call rotas in hard pressed posts to be contracted for no more than 72 hours per week by 1 April 1994 leaving the remaining 50% to be reduced to a commitment of 72 hours (or to 64 and 56 hours respectively for those on partial or full shifts) by 31 December 1994.

5. I would remind you that the Government attaches great importance to the successful conclusion of this initiative and the Scottish

11<sup>th</sup> May 1992

Addressees

For action:

General Managers,  
Health Boards

General Manager,  
Common Services Agency

General Manager,  
State Hospital

Chief Executives and  
Chief Executive  
Designate,  
NHS Trusts

For information:

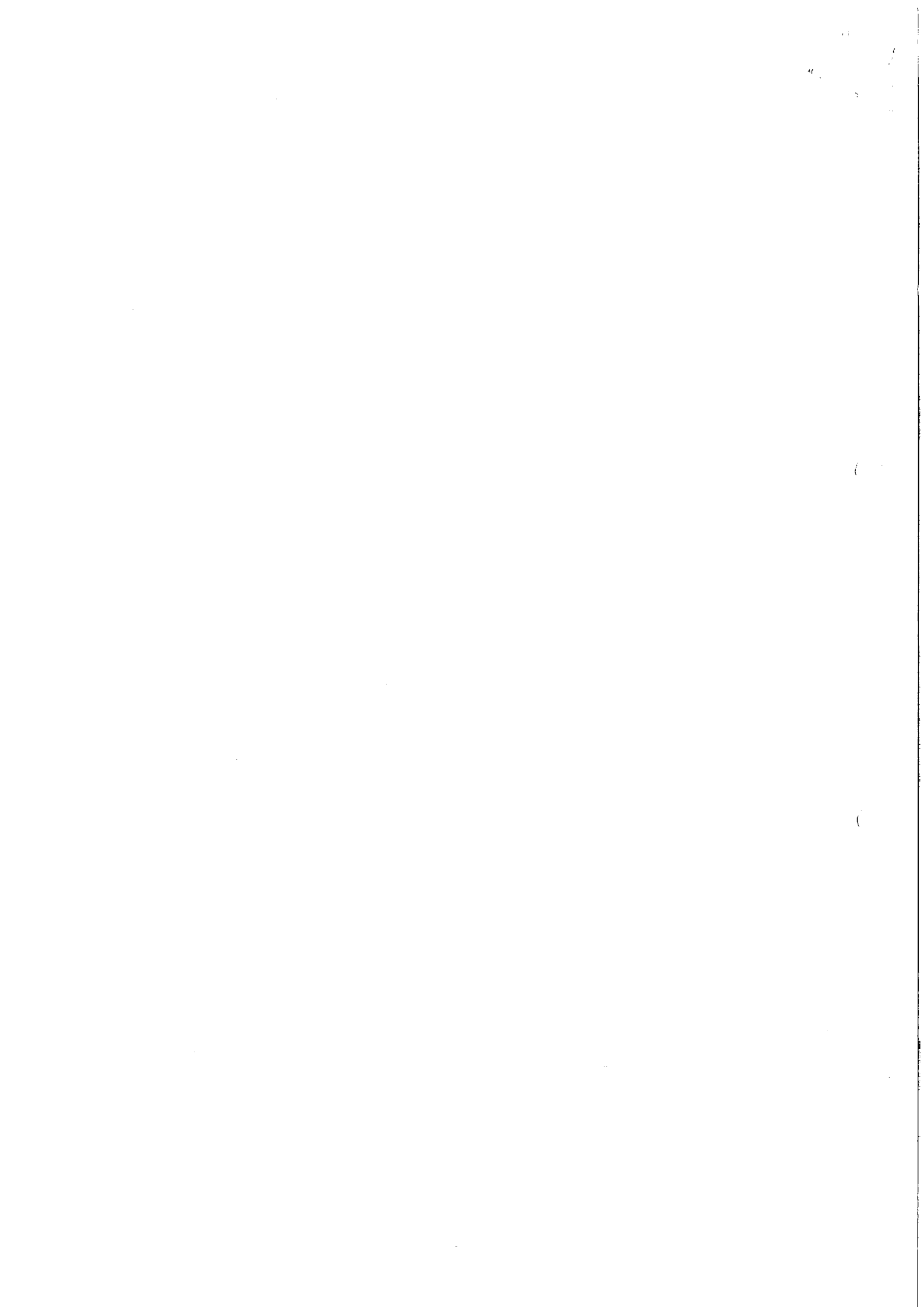
General Manager,  
Health Education Board  
for Scotland

To be copied to:  
Unit General Managers  
for action

Enquiries to:

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Implementation Group will continue to monitor progress carefully on behalf of the Management Executive.

6. Could Health Board General Managers and Chief Executives of Trusts please copy this to their Unit General Managers.

Yours sincerely



DON CRUICKSHANK

**COMMON SERVICES AGENCY**

RECEIVED

12 MAY 1992

FILE No.

REFERRED TO

ACTION  
TAKEN
