



National Health Service in Scotland  
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

UK CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

**Summary**

1. The UK ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in December 1991. It came into force on 15 January 1992. The purpose of this circular is to draw your attention to the Convention and the need to take it into account in the policies and practice of the Health Board, or Trust.

2. The UN Convention is a public declaration by all signatory nations that children are especially vulnerable and have a right to expect special consideration. Its underlying ethos is that in every situation the needs and the voice of the child must be heard and respected. Nations who have signed agreement with this have given an undertaking to publicise widely the principles of the Convention and to report to the UN at specified intervals on the measures adopted and progress towards the enjoyment of the rights set out in the Convention.

3. A copy of the Convention, which includes the UK's reservations is attached.

4. Article 23 about care for disabled children, and Article 24 about children's health and right of access to services are of particular relevance for Health Boards.

A Note of the UK's reservations can be found on page 30. The only specifically Scottish reservations which are about "children's hearings", are summarised in paragraph (f).

**Action**

5. Health Boards, Directly Managed Units, Trusts and potential Trusts should be aware of the Convention and ensure that the appropriate action is implemented in respect of the development of children's rights.

28 October 1992

**Addressees**

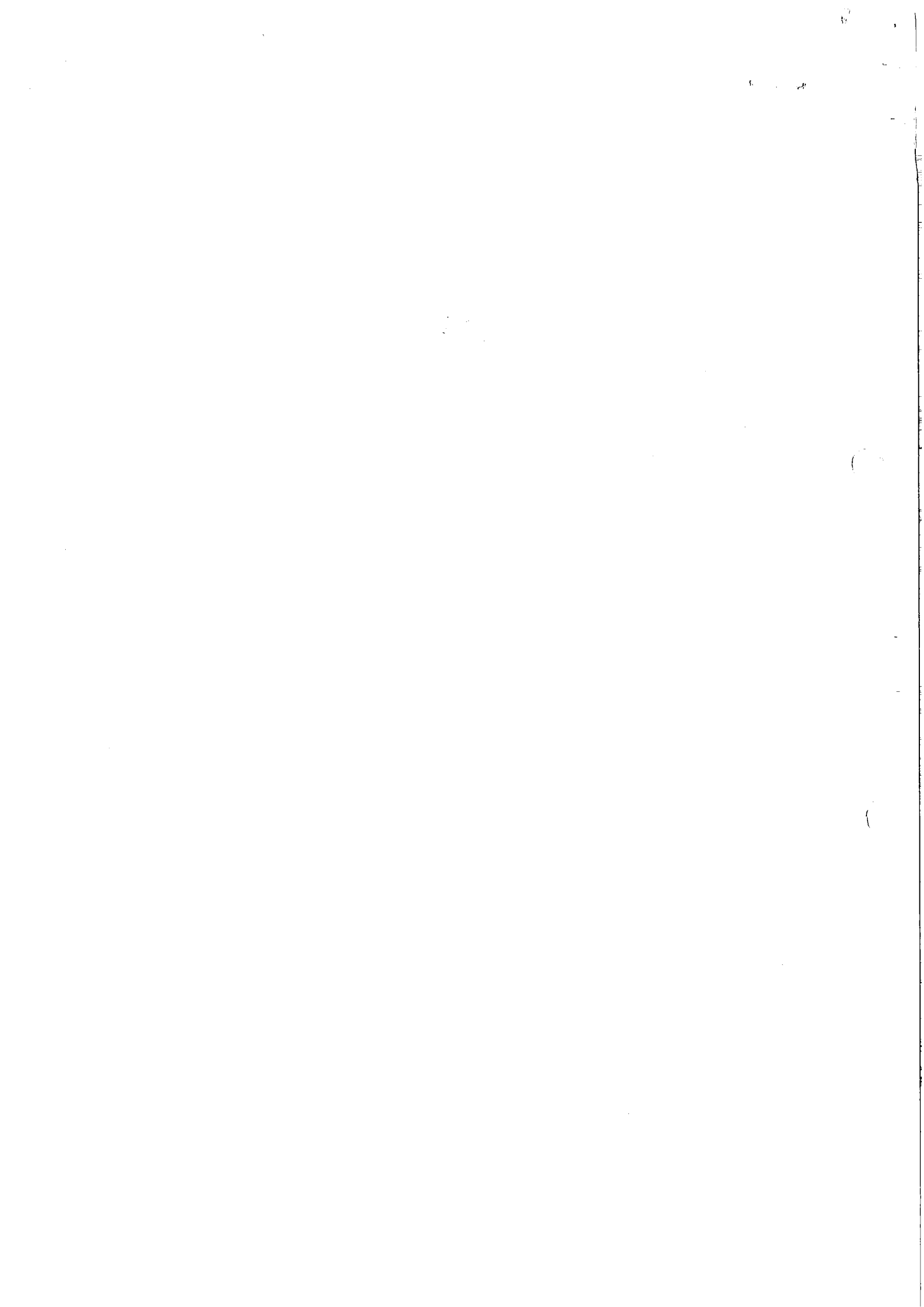
For action:  
General Managers,  
Health Boards

General Manager,  
State Hospital

Chief Executives,  
NHS Trusts

For information:  
Chief Executive  
Designate, NHS Trusts

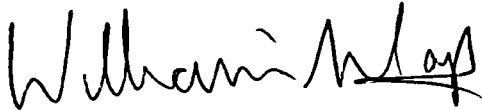
To be copied to Unit  
General Managers for  
action



6. A leaflet for the general public is being prepared and will be available sometime in the Autumn.

7. This letter should be copied to Unit General Managers for action as required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Moyes', written in a cursive style.

W MOYES  
Directorate of Strategic Management

