



# THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

NHS  
MEL(1993)22

## National Health Service in Scotland Management Executive

St. Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

### COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN LOCAL HEALTH COUNCILS AND HEALTH BOARDS

#### Summary

1. The Joint Working Group on Health Care commissioned a good practice guide to provide practical advice on how to build on and improve further the relationships between local health councils and health boards. Copies of the guide are enclosed. It is not prescriptive, but I commend it to all of you as a basis for future relationships.

#### Action

2. General Managers are asked to arrange for copies of the guide to be distributed to board members, to all senior officers and to any other officers in boards and units who have or may have regular contacts with local health councils. Chief Officers/Secretaries of local health councils are asked to distribute copies to all council members and staff. Local health councils and boards should jointly review their present communication arrangements in the light of the guidance given.

3. Although there are not the same formal links between local health councils and Trusts it is expected that informal links will be established. The guide commends some of the good practices identified as an aid to creating a positive relationship between councils and Trusts. Copies of the guide are enclosed for Chief Executives and Chief Executive Designates to distribute to Trust board members and senior members of staff. Trusts will wish to consider with local health councils what arrangements would be appropriate to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

DON CRUICKSHANK  
Chief Executive

26 February 1993

#### Addressees

##### For action:

General Managers,  
Health Boards

Chief Officers/  
Secretaries, Local  
Health Councils

##### For information:

General Manager,  
Common Services Agency

General Manager, State  
Hospital

Chief Executives, NHS  
Trusts

Chief Executive  
Designates, NHS Trusts

##### To be copied to:

Unit General Managers  
for information

##### Enquiries to:

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