



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

3157
NHS
MEL(1994)41

National Health Service in Scotland Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

HOSPITAL MEDICAL AND DENTAL STAFF: LOCUM TENENS ENGAGED THROUGH PRIVATE AGENCIES

Summary

1. The maximum authorised payments which Health Boards and Trusts may make for private agency locums are removed from 1 April 1994.

Action

2. Health Boards and Trusts should:

- thereafter negotiate charges with individual agencies relevant to local circumstances;
- copy this Circular to Unit General Managers for action as necessary.

3. Details of what is required are set out in the attached Annex.

Yours sincerely

A J MATHESON
Director of Manpower

20 April 1994

Addressees

For action:

General Managers
Health Boards

Chief Executives
NHS Trusts

For information:

General Manager
Common Services Agency

General Manager
State Hospital

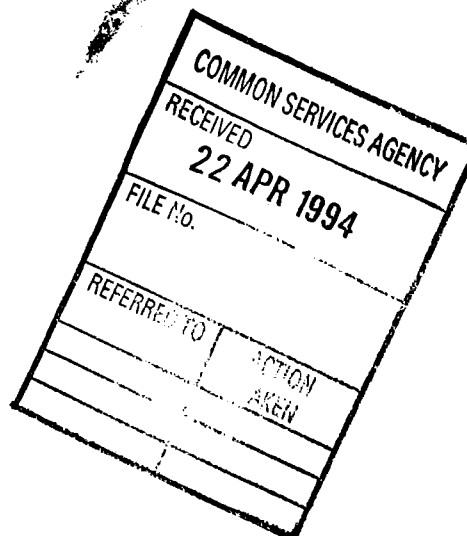
General Manager
Health Education Board
for Scotland

Executive Director
Scottish Council for
Postgraduate Medical
and Dental Education

Enquiries to:

Mrs L Middleton
Directorate of
Manpower
NHS Management
Executive
Room 62
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DE

Tel: 031-244-2828
Fax: 031-244-2683



ANNEX

LOCUM TENENS ENGAGED THROUGH PRIVATE AGENCIES

1. NHS MEL(1993)60 set out the ceilings for payments to locum agencies effective from 1 April 1993.
2. The Government has decided that these ceilings will be removed from 1 April 1994. This change is in line with the Government's policy of deregulation and delegation of decision-making to local level and will allow employing authorities to negotiate charges with individual locum agencies which are relevant to their local circumstances.
3. The aim should be to reduce overall expenditure on locums rather than increase costs. Employing authorities are therefore encouraged to improve planning and devise innovative cost effective methods of providing cover for prospective vacancies.
4. It remains essential that employing authorities satisfy themselves that all locums whom they wish to appoint have the qualifications and experience necessary to provide the cover required.