



NHS Management Executive
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
21 December 1995

Dear Colleague

**HEALTH BUILDING: INDEX OF HEALTH BUILDING
PLANNING AND BRIEFING
GUIDANCE AND SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL
COST ALLOWANCE GUIDES - NOVEMBER 1995
EDITION**

Summary

1. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the above publication.
2. The letter also announces that published cost allowances will henceforward be advisory, not mandatory, and will be known as Departmental Cost Guides (DCGs).

Action

3. I shall be grateful if you would ensure that this letter is copied to others within your Trust or Board who have responsibilities for health building projects.
4. The July 1993 edition of this publication is cancelled and MEL(1993)115 is withdrawn as from the date of this letter.

Other Information

5. The Index of Health Building Planning and Briefing Guidance provides information to which health bodies will find it helpful to refer when considering building proposals. It may also prove useful to provide a copy of this information to professional architectural, engineering and surveying consultants who may have been appointed to give advice on such proposals.
6. Until now, Departmental Cost Allowances (DCAs) have been a mandatory element in the cost control of publicly-funded health building projects. In view of the self-governing status of Trusts together with the other controls on expenditure which they must operate, it has been decided that cost allowances should in future be advisory and should be referred to as Department Cost Guides (DCGs).

Addressees

For action:
Chief Executives, NHS Trusts

Unit General Managers
Island Health Boards

General Managers,
Health Boards

General Manager,
State Hospitals Board for
Scotland

General Manager,
Common Services Agency

For information:
General Manager,
Health Education Board
for Scotland

Executive Director,
SCPMDE

Enquiries to:


Mr Brian D West
Estates Division
NHS Management Executive
Room 357A
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244 2075
Fax: 0131-244 2323

COMMON SERVICES AGENCY	
RECEIVED	
21 DEC 1995	
FILE No	
REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN

7. Notwithstanding this change in the status of cost allowances, health bodies will still require to secure economic efficiency and to ensure value for money in the planning and procurement of health building projects.

Yours sincerely

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

PAUL WILSON
Director of Trusts