



National Health Service in Scotland  
Management Executive

1 March 1996

Dear Colleague

**SCOTTISH CANCER CO-ORDINATING AND ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE: INTERIM REPORT ON COMMISSIONING  
CANCER SERVICES IN SCOTLAND**

**Summary**

1. This letter seeks comments from Health Boards, Trusts and the professional bodies/organisations listed in Annex A, on the attached Interim Report on Commissioning Cancer Services from the sub-committee of the Scottish Cancer Co-ordinating and Advisory Committee. Annex A explains the background to this report.

**Action**

2. Addressees are asked for comments on the following issues:
  - (a) the criteria which should be used to determine the appropriate configuration of cancer centres and units, taking into account local circumstances and the issue of patient access;
  - (b) how to ensure that primary care services play an effective role in the early diagnosis, referral for treatment, and the follow-up of patients with cancer;
  - (c) services which would benefit from regional or national purchasing;
  - (d) the key areas in which change are likely to be required in staffing, training and diagnostic and treatment facilities;
  - (e) how best to achieve comprehensive programmes for quality assurance, audit and monitoring;
  - (f) priorities for research and development.
3. It would be helpful to have views on these issues generally as well as views about these issues in relation to your own particular circumstances.
4. Health Boards should ensure that they obtain the views of GP fundholders in their area.

**Addressees:**

For action:

General Managers  
Health Boards

Chief Executives  
NHS Trusts

Professional Bodies/  
Other organisations - see Annex A.

For information:

General Manager  
Common Services Agency

General Manager  
State Hospitals Board for Scotland

General Manager  
Health Education Board for  
Scotland

Executive Director  
SCPMDE

Department of Health  
Richmond House  
LONDON

**Enquiries to:**

Mr W J Farquhar  
Health Gain Division  
NHS Management Executive  
Room 204  
St Andrew's House  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3DE  
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5. As will be seen, this report is primarily about the implications for secondary and tertiary care. Further work is to be carried out on the role of primary care and palliative care in the development of cancer services. A further report on these aspects will be submitted to the Chief Medical Officer in due course.
6. Comments should be submitted **by 29 March** to Mrs Elizabeth Porterfield, Room 215, Scottish Office Department of Health, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3DE. (If further copies are required please feel free to photocopy the report).

Yours sincerely



**KEVIN J WOODS**  
Director of Purchasing

Encl.

## Annex A

The Interim Report on Commissioning Cancer Services has been prepared by a sub-committee of the Scottish Cancer Co-ordinating and Advisory Committee (SCCAC). This sub-committee, under the chairmanship of Dr J G Paterson, was set up to assess the implications for cancer services in Scotland of the report which was prepared in England by the Departmental Expert Advisory Group on Cancer (the "Calman Report"). The interim report from Dr Paterson's sub-committee is not intended to address all of the relevant issues; it represents a preliminary view of some of the key issues. The purpose of this letter is to explain the work which the Department of Health in Scotland has now set in hand and to seek views on the issues set out in the attached report.

The Department has set up a small internal group to consider how the proposals for the development of cancer services in Scotland should be implemented. This group will report in the Spring of 1996. Once this group has completed its work, the intention is that the Department, in consultation with the NHS in Scotland, will develop a planning framework for cancer services to assist Health Boards to draw up purchasing strategies for cancer services.

To assist this process, the Department would welcome views on the issues raised in the report by the SCCAC sub-committee. Copies of the report are also being sent to the following organisations for their comments.

- Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh
- Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow
- Royal College of General Practitioners
- Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists
- Scottish Standing Committee, Royal College of Radiologists
- Scottish Standing Committee, Royal College of Pathologists
- Conference of Royal Colleges and Faculties in Scotland
- Scottish Association of GP Fundholders
- Scottish Joint Consultants' Committee
- National Professional Advisory bodies
- Royal College of Nursing Scottish Board
- Scottish General Medical Services Committee
- Marie Curie Cancer Care
- Cancer Relief MacMillan Fund Office for Scotland
- Scottish Partnership Agency for Palliative and Cancer Care
- Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children
- Scottish Breast Cancer Campaign.