



COMMON SERVICES AGENCY	
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- 2 APR 1996	
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St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
29 March 1996

Dear Colleague

APPOINTMENT OF DESIGNATED MEDICAL OFFICERS

Summary

This letter reminds Health Boards of their statutory duty to designate a medical officer or officers of the Board to exercise certain functions on behalf of the new local authorities, which replace the existing Councils on 1 April 1996.

Background

Section 14 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 requires that every Health Board -

“shall, in accordance with regulations, designate a medical officer or officers of the Board for the purpose of exercising such functions on behalf of local authorities as may be assigned to him by or under any enactment and such other functions as local authorities may, with the agreement of the Health Board, assign to him.”

In terms of the National Health Service (Designated Medical Officers) (Scotland) Regulations 1974, the Chief Administrative Medical Officer (now usually known as Director of Public Health) would normally be designated ex officio; and indeed, except in cases of urgency, local authorities must be given the opportunity to comment before any other persons - including deutes - are authorised to act as designated medical officers.

Action

Boards will therefore wish, where this has not already been done, to be in touch with the Chief Executive of each local authority in their area about the appointment of designated medical officers and, where appropriate, their deutes. In addition to the exercise of their statutory functions, designated medical officers provide an important link between Health Boards and local authorities on health-related issues. In their discussions with local authorities about these appointments, therefore, Boards may wish to explore the contribution designated medical officers can make to increased collaboration on

29 March 1996

Addressees

For action:
General Managers,
Health Boards

For information:
Directors of Public
Health/CAMOs

Chief Executives,
NHS Trusts

General Manager
Common Services
Agency

General Manager
Health Education
Board
for Scotland

Executive Director,
SCPMDE

General Manager,
State Hospitals
Board for Scotland

Chief Executives
New Local
Authorities

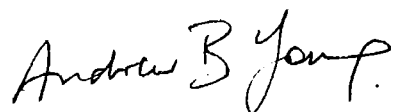
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health matters, bearing in mind the opportunity the new single tier structure offers for a co-ordinated approach to health improvement across the spectrum of local government functions.

A copy of this letter goes to the Chief Executive of the new local authorities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew B Young".

DR ANDREW B YOUNG
Medical Director