



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

Department of Health

COMMON SERVICES AGENCY
22 JAN 1997
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NHS Management Executive
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

13 January 1997

COMMON SERVICES AGENCY
GENERAL MANAGER
TRINITY PARK HOUSE

Dear Colleague

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY AND
MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT TO NHS MEL(1996)80**

Summary

1. NHS MEL(1996)80 announced revised policy on the management of telecommunications to reflect its increasing importance in the direct support of patient care. The letter indicated that access to NHS Net was only available through the framework contract with Mercury Communications Ltd, pending conclusion of contract negotiations with BT.

2. Those negotiations are now concluded and connection to NHS Net is now available through either Mercury or BT. Accordingly NHS MEL(1996)80 should be amended at paragraph 1(b) by deleting all after "(Annex B)", to the end of the paragraph.

Action

3. Health Boards who have yet to furnish Common Services Agency (Information Support Group) with the name of a contact person for local co-ordination of telecommunications management should do so as soon as possible.

4. All Health Boards and NHS Trusts are asked to ensure that general as well as IT/technical managers are aware of the issues given the potential clinical, operational and financial advantages described in NHS MEL(1996)80.

Addressees

For action:

Chief Executives, NHS Trusts

General Managers, Health Boards

General Manager, Common Services Agency

General Manager, Health Education Board for Scotland

General Manager, State Hospitals Board for Scotland

Executive Director, SCPMDE

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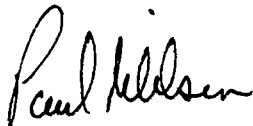
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SCOTTISH HEALTH BOARD
COMMON SERVICES AGENCY
TRINITY PARK HOUSE
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG
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ACC. 970079
Date

5. Health Boards are asked to circulate this MEL to GP Fundholders and GPs within their area.

Yours sincerely



PAUL WILSON
Director of Trusts

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