



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

Department of Health

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

18th September 1997

Dear Colleague

**PERSONAL MEDICAL SERVICES PILOTS AND THE
NHS (PRIMARY CARE) ACT 1997**

This MEL accompanies 2 documents which have been issued today for consultation. They are:-

- The Financial Framework for PMS provider pilots; and
- The Contractual Framework for PMS provider pilots.

Although issued for consultation, the documents also provide Health Boards and those interested in submitting a proposal to establish a PMS pilot with preliminary information on areas which will assist them in considering whether to proceed with an application. The documents do not however cover all financial or contractual areas, nor at this stage are they definitive guidance. They have been issued for consultation to seek the opinion and views of those most interested in these pilots. Comments are invited by 10 October.

Following this consultation it is planned to prepare and issue definitive guidance on these matters by the end of November. Further guidance on a number of issues, including pensions, internal audit, managing contract variations, payment toward capital costs and the implications of establishing limited companies will be issued in due course. Issues around the inclusion of dispensing within a PMS pilot are being considered separately by the Management Executive and guidance on this will follow.



Addressees

For action:

General Managers,
Health Boards

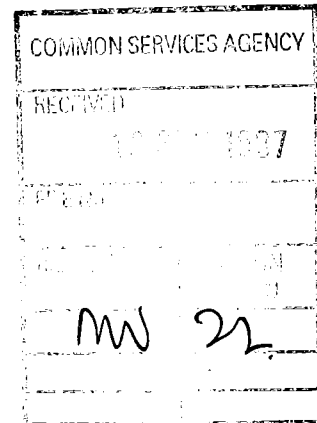
For information:

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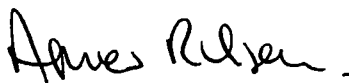


Following concerns which were raised at the Workshop held in Dundee on 28 August, it has been decided to relax the timetable for the submission of full applications. The revised timetable is as follows:-

Submission of proposals by applicants to Health Boards	31 October 1997
Submission of applications by Health Boards to the Secretary of State (to allow ME's consideration of applications to commence, HB comments not required at this stage)	as soon as received but by 14 November 1997 at the latest
Submission of applications by Health Boards to the Secretary of State with comments	28 November 1997
Notification of approval by the Secretary of State	mid-December
Completion of local preparations	January 1997-March 1998
Pilots go live	1 April 1998

Copies of these documents have been sent separately to each of the applicants whom we have recommended should proceed to the next stage. Health Boards should make copies available to any practice or NHS Trust who requests it or who express an interest in participating in a personal medical services pilot.

Yours sincerely



AGNES ROBSON
Director of Primary Care