



NHS Management Executive  
St. Andrew's House  
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31st March 1998  
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Dear Colleague

## ALLOCATION OF DRUG MISUSE RESOURCES

1. This letter informs Health Board General Managers and those responsible for the provision of drug misuse services of future arrangements for the allocation of resources and monitoring of expenditure.

### Summary

2. From 1 April 1998, drug misuse funding will be provided in the form of allocations to Health Boards based on historic spend for 1997-98. The funds will be separately identified and, as at present, should be used for drug misuse services. Health Boards are free to draw on other resources to enhance their spending on drug misuse services. The use of their funds will be monitored through the performance management process against the background of national priorities and objectives outlined in the Scottish Office guidance *Planning and Provision of Drug Misuse Services (NHS MEL (1997) 77)* issued in November 1997. These arrangements will apply until new national arrangements for the distribution of NHS funds, currently being considered by the Arbuthnott Committee, are in place.

3. Formal letters of allocation, against the background of the new arrangements, will issue to Health Boards shortly.

4. As previously notified, responsibility for the funding and accountability of Drug Development Officer (and Alcohol Development Officer) posts and allocations of funding in support of local drugs fora is being kept apart from these distribution arrangements. The allocation of funds for these purposes has transferred from National Services Division to the Public Health Policy Unit (PHPU) of the Department of Health. It is proposed to base funding for these posts in 1998/99 upon existing allocations. However, in the long term, funding

### Addressees

#### For action:

General Managers, Health Boards  
Chief Executives, NHS Trusts  
Chairmen, Drug Action Teams

#### For information:

Providers of specialist drug services  
Director, National Services Division  
Chairmen, Alcohol Misuse  
Co-ordinating Committees

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support of this kind will depend upon the outcome of the evaluation of Drug Action Teams (DATs) and Alcohol Misuse Co-ordinating Committees (AMCCs) which is about to commence. PHPU will be in touch shortly to confirm detailed funding arrangements for 1998/99.

### **Action**

5. The provisions of this letter come into effect on 1 April 1998. Health Board General Managers, who have already been advised by NSD that there will be no need to submit detailed funding bids for 1998/99 allocations, should ensure that it is circulated to all appropriate staff and that its contents are taken into account in the future planning and provision of drug misuse services.

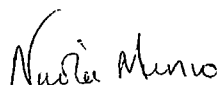
6. DAT Chairmen are asked to ensure that this letter is circulated to all DAT members and to Drug Development Officers.

### **Other Information**


7. Recent guidance has established national strategic objectives for tackling drug misuse and key principles which health boards, local authorities and others should take into account in the planning and commissioning of effective treatment and care services for drug misusers. As the guidance aligns the mechanisms for drug misuse service provision and accountability arrangements more closely with those for other health and social services, it was agreed that The Scottish Office should review the funding arrangements for drug misuse services, with a view to Boards being given greater autonomy over the use of these resources, in support of local strategies and national objectives.

8. A Working Group looked at a number of options for change in line with the new arrangements. Its conclusion, endorsed by Ministers, was that the most equitable way of distributing these funds was to allocate on a historic basis until such time as new national arrangements for the distribution of NHS funds (which will include drug misuse resources) are in place. These arrangements will be dependent on the wider review of the distribution of funds for the NHS in Scotland, currently being undertaken by the Arbuthnott Committee. The new arrangements take account of consultation with the Scottish Advisory Committee on Drug Misuse.

Yours sincerely



**MRS NICOLA MUNRO**  
Under Secretary  
Public Health Policy Unit



**DR PETER COLLINGS**  
Director of Finance