

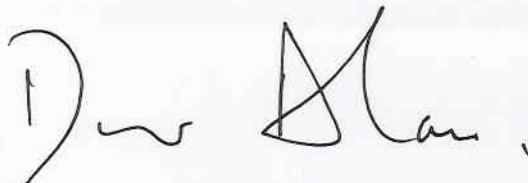
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- 7 OCT 2010



04 OCT 2010

Practitioner Health Programme

Thank you for your letter of 7th July 2010 expressing the JMCC's support for the Practitioner Health Programme (PHP).

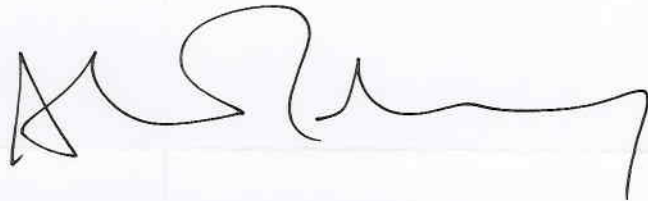
When the Department arranged to fund the PHP, it was made clear from the outset that funding was only available for a two-year pilot and at the end of that period, a business case would be handed to the local providers to consider any future funding requirements.

I am aware that LSCG and the PHP prototype management group members are actively engaging with the London Trusts to seek funding for PHP beyond March 2011. I am also aware that there is a strong support for PHP from numerous areas within the profession.

In the White Paper, *Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS*, we said that we wanted to give the NHS more freedom and that we wanted to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to health professionals. In keeping with these principles, I think it is entirely appropriate that the decision to fund PHP is with the local employing organisations so that if they decide to fund the service, they can take ownership for it and shape it so that it meets local needs.

I welcome the JMCC's support for the PHP and I am encouraged by some of the emerging findings from the service. I look forward to seeing the full evaluation report at the end of the year.

Finally, I would like to add that it is a credit to the dedication and professionalism of the staff at PHP, LSCG, NCAS and the prototype management group that they have been able to make efficiency savings on the pilot funding to ensure the service runs until the end of March 2011, well beyond the intended term of two years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John W.'.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Lansley'.

ANDREW LANSLEY CBE