



JOINT MEDICAL
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

7 July 2010

Dear

At its last meeting the JMCC heard from Alastair Scotland and Rosemary Field from NCAS about the success of the Practitioner Health Programme. The Council has kept a keen eye on the development of this programme since its inception and as I am sure you are aware, this programme is an important development in combating the unique and complex health problems that doctors may develop. Members of the Council were greatly impressed by the results that were reported to us.

It is understandable, therefore, that members of the Council expressed concern at reports that there was uncertainty about the rollout of the programme nationally and doubt about funding for the programme in London. Whilst we understand that there are tough decisions to be made about funding at this difficult economic time, the Council believes that the Programme is of great benefit as a means to protect patient safety. Furthermore, with the requirement to make £20bn of savings in the NHS, the impressive return to work rate can assist with realising these savings. Moreover, the PHP can assist in addressing concerns about doctors performance related to ill health as part of the system of revalidation.

By way of this letter, I would formally like to express the Council's full support for the programme and would be interested to hear your views on this very useful resource.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Alan Russell
Chairman
Joint Medical Consultative Council

CC CMO
Sir Bruce Keogh, Medical Director NHS England
Alastair Scotland, NCAS
Rosemary Field, NCAS