

GRO-C 14/11.

1. Mr Heppell - as discussed
2. Mr Langsdon

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: CBLA

One of the agreed outcomes of the CBLA Accountability Review in July (which PS(L) endorsed) was the creation of a new Chief Executive post. The post was advertised in August and a field of 78 candidates attracted. A shortlist of 7 was drawn up and 6 candidates (there was one withdrawal) were interviewed on 7 November.

2. The panel comprised the Chairman and Vice Chairman of CBLA; Vernon Secombe of South Western RHA (also a CBLA member); Mrs Belinda Banham (MRC member and ex Chairman North Kensington DHA) and Mr Terry Hunt RGM of North East Thames. I attended as an observer.

3. The interviews were well conducted and suitably testing. Three candidates emerged who the panel agreed could do the job. However they were unanimous that one candidate was much to be preferred over the others. This was Mr Bernard Crowley (C.V. attached).

4. From my observations of the interviews I would agree that this was the only fair conclusion they could reach. He is a man with a proven managerial track record in the pharmaceutical industry and on the basis of his interview is still firing on all cylinders. Although he has had heart surgery he claims (and appears) to be in good health and has recently passed a company medical.

5. CBLA want to move quickly to secure his appointment on a 3 year rolling contract. I see no reason to veto their choice and would be grateful for PS(L)'s agreement to inform the CBLA that they can proceed. H

6. I would be happy to supply further details on the other candidates if PS(L) wishes to see them.

GRO-C

M A HARRIS
HS1
1209 HAN. H.
EXT

GRO-C

11 November 1986

cc

Mr O'Connor
Mr Fisher
Mr Slater
Mr Walden
Mr Podger ✓
Dr Harris
Mr Cashman
Dr Smithies
Mr James
Dr Moore

Why 3 year rolling?
All other GTS are
on 3 yrs, renewable
annually so effectively
2 yrs.

GRO-C

14/11.

12 NOV 1986
SECRET

WITN0771063_0001