



THE MACFARLANE TRUST

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Our Ref:1023/AH.CL

Charles Lister
NHS Executive
Health Services Directorate 1
Room 416
135 - 155 Waterloo Road
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23rd October 1998

Dear Charles Lister

Mike McGovern has written to let us know that you have taken over from Christine Corrigan as our main contact with The Department, and suggested that I write to update you on the progress of our Strategic Review.

When you have had time to review recent correspondence, you will see that we originally wrote to Christine about a year ago to suggest that a further Review of the Macfarlane Trust was necessary, due to the very significant change in death rate and consequent life expectancy of our remaining Trust Registrants following introduction of new treatments for HIV/AIDS.

We gained approval to start work on the Review in 1997/98, using funds underspent in the previous financial year 1996/97 of just over £3500.

We wrote to Baroness Jay in March 1998 outlining our plans for the Review, and at that time hoped to have an Interim Report ready by May 1998. Unfortunately completion of the Interim Report was delayed, and then we were advised that it would be best to send the Interim Report to the incoming Minister, Baroness Hayman. This was done at the end of July. We enclosed a covering letter from the Chairman, Alan Tanner, with the Interim Report, and in it asked for further funds to complete the Strategic Review.

Work to complete the Strategic Review was in full swing at the time we submitted the Interim Report, and in order to meet our deadline for completion of the Review by the end of November 1998, much work was planned for August and September. Due to the Summer Recess we did not hear from Baroness Hayman until 8th September, when she replied to our Chairman's covering letter in July and advised that there was no money available to fund completion of the Review in the current year.

cc: David
Mike
Green

I'll look into this and then
fix a meeting with Ann
Hithaway when she is back.
Does anyone else want to join in?

GRO-C

22/10

Baroness Hayman suggested that we apply for Project Funding under Section 64 in 1999/2000.

However, since we had already committed to the Department our intention to deliver the Final Report in November, it was not possible to postpone the work already in hand.

We applied for Section 64 Project Funding at the end of September, and allowed for additional work to feed back the results of the Review to the 480 living registrants and 31 'positive partners' in 1999/2000. This was because the 'user involvement' in the Review had been greater than originally hoped for. Analysis of results of Focus Groups and Questionnaires indicated that it would be very important to acknowledge contributions from Registrants and reassure them that identification of their needs would result in appropriate recommendations being made by Trustees to the Department of Health.

At the present time we have received completed Reports from analysis of 159 completed Questionnaires and 4 Focus Groups held in different parts of the Country. We are awaiting a report of 14 One-to-One Interviews held with Registrants, and hope to have a first draft of the Final Report ready by the end of November. We plan to send the Final Report the Department in early December.

However, The Trust has already spent £7,558 on the Review and expects bills amounting a further £7,500 for work done facilitating Focus Groups and One-to-One Interviews and printing of the Final Report. Work to provide adequate feedback to Registrants would be an additional cost not included in the original budget, but written into our Section 64 Project application. We have received £3,553 from Section 64 underspend in 1996/97 referred to above, and so in the current financial year are looking at a projected overspend of approximately £11,505. We are doing our best to keep Review costs as low as possible by doing as much work as we can in house; however we have a small staff team and our resources are very stretched at present.

It would be nice to meet you soon and put a face to a name, but we do realise how very busy you must be just now! I am away from Tuesday 27th October to Tuesday 3rd November, but would be happy to speak to you, and if convenient come along to meet you any time after that. Meanwhile, forgive the long 'ramble' – I hope it will give you some idea of the background to our Review.

I look forward to hearing from you soon
With best wishes
Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Ann Hithersay
Administrator