

16 September 2004

Professor Sir Liam Donaldson
Chief Medical Officer
Room 111
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Dear Liam

Patient safety and reduction of risk of transmission of CJD via surgical instruments

Further to my letter of 24 May 2004 we have prepared a draft scope describing the work that we intend to undertake to prepare this guidance. The scope describes the background and objective of the work (sections 1 and 2) and defines the areas that we will and will not examine (section 3). Section 4 briefly describes our intended approach (more details can be found in appendix B). This draft scope will be discussed at the first meeting of the CJD sub-committee on 14 October and will then be publicly consulted upon. We believe that public consultation will help secure support for and compliance with the guidance when it is published.

This is all substantial additional undertaking for NICE and to so it properly we will need to allocate additional resources. We have set out what we think we will need in appendix. With the withdrawal of £400,000 from our funding this year, we have lost the flexibility we might have had to apply to this work and so will be now looking to the Department for additional resources.

We intend to announce that NICE is undertaking this work late on 1 October, a date we have agreed with press and public relations people at the Department. The scope will be finalised in December 2004 we will begin development of the guidance. We will consult on draft guidance early in 2006 and issue final guidance in May 2006.

Once I have your views, I will write to the chief medical officers in the other three countries.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Dillon
Chief Executive